

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1183601

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-05-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE AND FURTHER THE CRAFT OF BEE-KEEPING.

Activities: To promote and further the craft of bee-keeping.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£34,521	£29,313	-	-
2023-12-31	£31,944	£26,799	-	-
2022-12-31	£29,730	£26,683	-	-
2021-12-31	£23,807	£18,796	-	-
2020-12-31	£30,150	£22,964	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Peter Alan Connor	Chair	2019-05-28
JANE Hamilton		2024-12-05
Jonathan Baynes		2024-04-14
Martin Kendall		2022-04-24
Peter Charles Bates		2019-05-28
Sally Knowles		2024-04-14

Accounts

CBKA Yearbook 2024/5



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Editor's report

THIS YEARBOOK CONTAINS the CBKA reports on what has been happening within the Association for the year 2024. The Annual General Meeting was held in person in April, and the Minutes are included in this yearbook, along with the Treasurer's report on the CBKA finances to the end of 2024. There are also reports from the three CBKA apiaries, who each seemed to have had a reasonable later season after the early bad weather in April/May. The Wandlebury apiary has been managed for many years by Stephen Poyser, among his many CBKA positions, but sadly he has had to give up beekeeping; therefore, new volunteers are needed to run the apiary, so if you are able help please get in touch (see back page for contacts).

CBKA was able to attend nine shows/fairs during the year, and there is a report about those; Hazel Bickle has coordinated the events for several years, but has also had to stop beekeeping, so if you can help with events, again please do get in touch. Also in the yearbook, the Bee Inspector's report includes notes about the various diseases that can affect our colonies, and approaches on how to manage them; while Jack is now responsible for a different area, he still lives in Cambridgeshire and has added his contact details if you have any concerns about your bees' health. Together with other reports on education, the library and talks programme, there is also a note about the project to develop a new apiary and request for any information on potential new sites.

Having started with six hives through the winter, which were out flying in February 2024 and with Candipolline gold on each, the cold wet weather in April/May resulted in the loss of three colonies. However, the remaining hives built up rapidly and, by catching swarms from a couple of them and a swarm suddenly appearing in one we had not had time to clear out, we went through the summer with eight hives. With the warm weather and all of the forage seemingly delayed we ended up with an above average honey crop. The eight hives, all of which were treated with Apivar for *Varroa*, seemed strong and well fed going into winter, and all had bees flying early this year.

All of us beekeepers need to remain vigilant against yellow-legged (Asian) hornets, and need to get the wider public aware and looking out for them. While the bad weather in April/May last year possibly affected them, with

seemingly fewer reports of sightings and nests destroyed, there has been some evidence of overwintering and breeding. It remains important to continue to put out traps and report any sightings, and CBKA will continue with the sentinels to monitor the approach. Hopefully we can continue to keep this invasive species away for a while longer and that we can keep other diseases and pests under control. With that, I wish you all a disease-free, productive and happy 2025 season with your bees.

Peter Bates

Chair's Report

I HAVE TAKEN on the role of Chair of the Association at a time when the Association is in rude health. After the lull of the COVID years, we have seen successive successful Beginners' Courses introduce new members to the craft of beekeeping. Meanwhile, our One-Day Seminar and Online Talks programme have gone from strength to strength and extended our reach internationally, establishing the Association as part of a truly global network of bee enthusiasts, with 200 Associate members who support our work. In August we had an outstanding quantity – and range – of entries for the Honey Show, with the prize-winners celebrated at our Annual Prizegiving Dinner in December. Having the opportunity to discuss bees with members of the public at events such as the Honey Show is always rewarding, and has left me in no doubt that the public has an increasing appreciation of the role bees, and other pollinators, play in ensuring the future prosperity of our planet. It is also clear that everyone enjoys the honey we sell, which comes from the hard work of bees and beekeepers alike, and that demand shows no signs of diminishing. In summary, the Association has never been stronger, both financially and as a community.

My immediate predecessor as Chair, Paul Schofield, told me that most of my time as Chair would be taken up with thanking people on behalf of the Association. It is, therefore, appropriate that I start by thanking Paul himself for his many years of service to the CBKA. Paul served as Editor, Vice-Chair and subsequently Chair, before stepping down at the last AGM. Paul's careful stewardship of the Association as Chair included our successful transition to a CIO, and managing the impact of COVID on our activities.

We wish Paul well with his future endeavours. I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members for their unsung efforts. This now includes Jane Hamilton, who has stepped into my former role of Treasurer, with effect from 1 January 2025, and thereby reduced the burden on me personally, as I had to juggle multiple roles throughout 2024.

At the same time, we have reluctantly said goodbye to Stephen Poyser, who has stepped down from the Committee after 41 years of beekeeping. I was, like so many, taught beekeeping by Stephen, and we all owe much to his ability to enthuse those around him with his knowledge, no-nonsense approach and sense of humour. All of my subsequent mistakes, and each and every bee sting, have been my fault, and most definitely not his. I hope that you enjoy his reminiscences of his time as a beekeeper later in the Yearbook.

The success of the Association, and the strong position that we are in, boils down to one simple thing: the willingness of volunteers to get involved. It is a genuine pleasure to thank everyone who has made a contribution, however small. When I have the time to reflect, I am always amazed by how much we achieve for what is fundamentally such a small organisation. You may be surprised by the range of activities we undertake; to misquote the unusual bedfellows of Monty Python and John F. Kennedy, apart from providing training, bulk purchasing beekeeping supplies, lending equipment, arranging insurance, putting on social activities, arranging the talks programme, holding the One-Day Seminar, and hosting the Honey Show and the Annual Prizegiving Dinner, what has your Association ever done for you? And when thinking how best to respond to that question, perhaps it is time to ask not what your Association can do for you, but to ask what you can do for your Association. Each and every one of these activities was made possible because someone somewhere took on the work required to see it through. While some knowledge of beekeeping is useful for supporting a stall at a particular event, or for jarring Association honey, the CBKA also needs volunteers who have a wide range of experience in non-beekeeping related areas such as insurance, web-design, technology, property maintenance, and event management. There are so many more things that we would like to do and whatever your skills may be, we will find a use for them – but only if we know what you can offer. So please let us know if you feel you can contribute.

What then of the future? Beekeeping in the UK faces a wide range of threats. Climate change is impacting the beekeeping season, making

predicting what the coming spring holds next to impossible – only that it will be different to the previous year. Annual sightings of Yellow-Legged Hornets increase across the country and, more locally, Cambridgeshire continues to experience particularly high levels of European Foul Brood (EFB).

The Committee is aware of the role beekeepers must play if we are to navigate these challenges in the years ahead. We have taken steps to monitor for the presence of Yellow-Legged Hornets in Cambridgeshire through our 'Sentinel' programme, and arranged with the National Bee Unit to host a 'Bee Health Day' this May to help members identify EFB and other diseases early and so take immediate action to protect the health of the local bee population. We will continue to work hard to ensure future generations of beekeepers also get to experience the pleasure and satisfaction of beekeeping that we enjoy today.

I wish all of you and your bees a very productive and fulfilling season, and look forward to seeing you – whether as a satisfied participant or, even better, an enthusiastic volunteer – at one of the many events we have planned in 2025.

Peter Connor

Membership Report

THE AUTOMATED ENCOURAGEMENT by our membership system stimulated a significantly higher number of renewals by the end of the year. Below are the figures for 2024 showing how many members were registered at closing of the membership year, on 31 December 2024. The figures for 2022 and 2023 are also shown for information.

Year	Ordinary	Partner	Associate	Non-UK Associate	Honorary	Junior	Total
2022	213	56	94	n/a	4	n/a	367
2023	417	49	133	36	9	0	644
2024	300	39	200	53	11	2	605

The Ordinary and Joint (an Ordinary plus a Partner category) membership fees increased by £1 at the end of 2024; therefore, all renewals for these categories will be at £30 and £46 respectively. Joint memberships no longer require the Partner to have an email address. During 2024, Associate memberships were expiring at various times, depending on when they were

registered/renewed, 12 months prior to the varying expiry events.

The CBKA WhatsApp Community, comprising several distinct groups, has gained popularity and members are able to communicate directly with each other using this medium. Our Facebook group continues on a strictly for-members-only basis and has been enhanced by a similar Facebook Messenger Community of several chat groups. This has proved to be as popular as the WhatsApp Community.

Martin Kendall

Wandlebury Apiary Report

THE EIGHT COLONIES at the end of 2023 came through the winter in differing strengths, which did not appear to be dependent on the type of hive they were in (National (one with a super on as a brood and a half) or 14 x 12). Regretfully, one of the 14 x 12 hives failed in the spring of 2024 as a result of the queen failing before a replacement could be created. The *Varroa* control in the Autumn of 2023, and the treatment with oxalic acid in early 2024, was again successful to such a degree that it yet again proved difficult to find mites to show beginners during their practical sessions in the late spring.

In January 2024, the colonies were fed fondant icing as an insurance against starvation and later Candipolline as a pollen substitute to boost brood production. The weather fluctuations and the location of the hives in the wood did not help the buildup of the hives. The good weather disappeared as soon as the early nectar became available and the cool dark nature of the wood restricted the flying time for the bees. The cold weather also had the effect of preventing as many inspections as I would have liked, and when the warm weather did arrive there was an urge for the hives to swarm due to being prevented from flying for a while.

Swarm prevention and/or swarm control was implemented, which resulted in three splits, but the poor weather did not help with the production of viable queens. However, the apiary went through the summer with eight hives of varying strengths that resulted in approximately 250lb of honey being extracted, for sale by the CBKA in 2025. There was also a byproduct of approximately 25lb of wax, which will be traded in for new foundation for use in the apiary. We were able to use the apiary for the practical sessions for

some of the 2024 beginners, and a Practical Apiary Meeting (PAM) session.

One National hive dwindled in the autumn of 2024, so the apiary went into the winter with seven hives in either National (one as brood and a half) or 14 x 12 brood. As a result of personal circumstances, I was unable to feed the hives in late August; the colonies took advantage of this by collecting a profusion of ivy nectar from the surrounding woodland and filling every part of the hives with ivy honey. This was not what I wanted to happen, but it did remove the need for me to feed the bees with syrup. I can currently only hope the bees will have enough good weather in the new spring to be able to fly and collect water to enable them to dilute the ivy honey to keep them alive.

When inspected in early January 2025, the hives were all still alive and they were supplied with fondant icing. It is intended to use Candipolline again in the spring of 2025 as a pollen substitute.

The restriction on swarms being brought to Wandlebury, to prevent the spread of European Foul Brood (EFB), meant that I again had to use a CBKA colony to provide a stocked observation hive for use by the education team of wardens at Wandlebury. In addition, several times during the year a hive was disturbed to create an observation hive for use at an event the CBKA were attending. EFB was again found to the south of Cambridge, which resulted in me receiving three notifications of it being found within 3km of the apiary, but I am pleased to report no EFB was found at Wandlebury.

Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF), our landlords, undertook more work around the shed and the apiary during early 2024 and additional felling of diseased (Ash Die-Back) or non-native trees is anticipated in 2025. During the winter, the storms have caused some damage in the vicinity of the apiary, with some trees either being blown over or having been damaged as a result of losing branches or even the whole top of the tree. Luckily none of the falling timber damaged any of the hives or the beeshed.

If you wish to be involved in helping with Wandlebury apiary please contact me, as I again intend to use the time for a combination of sharing information and spreading the load of looking after the CBKA interests there whilst enjoying beekeeping. However, as a result of my changing circumstances I will cease my involvement with the apiary and the bee-shed in early 2025 and I await notification of who will be taking on the roles; no doubt the CBKA will circulate the details of the new apiary manager in due course.

Stephen Poyser, Wandlebury Apiary Manager

Impington Apiary Report

ALL OF THE hives were trickle-treated with VarroMed in December 2023 and fondant blocks were added to each hive. There were 13 CBKA hives and three hives bequeathed to the association by Bill Block. These three are now incorporated into the apiary and give us a new breeding line. Our thanks go to May Block for this generosity.

As in recent years, we invited volunteers to join us to make and re-wax frames in readiness for the season. We did two sessions in February and March, and these were very productive and sociable. Thank you to Caroline, Milly, Serge, Jack, Adrien, Anne-Marie and Alex for this help.

Fondant and Candipolline were added to a few hives that were a bit light in mid-March. The 2024 season got off to a strong start and, with the first full inspection on 30 March showing colonies developing well, we prepared some splits on 14 April to prevent swarming. The main and isolation apiaries were inspected by Jack Silberrad, the SBI, on 22 April. As no foul brood was found, we were able to go ahead with training sessions for beginners and other beekeepers. During the inspection chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV) was found in two adjacent colonies. These were united on an open floor and have then been productive throughout the season. They provided useful discussion at the various training days, but weren't opened for any of the sessions. After the good start to the season, the wet weather in the latter part of April and throughout May restricted foraging. In mid-June the weather improved and all the colonies were foraging strongly. Nearly all hives showed signs of swarming; to manage the colonies, we inspected regularly, prepared some splits, clipped queens and supered hives, and by 20 June there were 20 colonies in the apiary.

There were six beginner's practical sessions between 14 May and 11 June 2024. These were disrupted by cool and wet weather, with some inspections under umbrellas! The beginners were divided into small groups and we are grateful for the help of Milly, Anne-Marie and Tomas, for demonstrating and enabling the sessions to run smoothly in tricky conditions.

The CBKA offered a more complete programme of Practical Apiary Management Sessions (PAMS) in 2024. These had previously been offered pre-COVID and it is proposed to offer them each year to CBKA members who have at least one season's experience of keeping bees; three PAMS were run at

Impington in 2024. On 27 April we had a session on 'Swarm Prevention and Swarm Control'; unfortunately, we couldn't open hives for this because of the weather, but demonstration and discussion was well received. On 13 July the PAMS was 'Frame Management for Colony Health and Brood Production' which included demonstrations of a shook swarm and Bailey comb change on live colonies. On 18 August the PAMS was 'Methods for Assessing and Treating *Varroa*', run by Jonathan Baynes and several hives were examined. We were pleased that Jonathan didn't find too much evidence of *Varroa* damage!

The second and final year of the Bumblebee study started on 4 July. Nynke Blömer and Dr Sarah Scott, of the Agroecology Unit of the Department of Zoology, Cambridge University, are assessing whether honeybees and bumblebees forage on the same species, and whether the density of honeybee colonies changes the foraging behaviour of bumblebees. The bumblebee colony was set up close to the apiary and one of the honeybee colonies had a pollen trap fitted. The traps were activated on the same days to collect pollen over three days on three occasions. We look forward to seeing the study results, and hope these weren't upset by the badger that turned the bumblebee colony over towards the end of the trial.

Bees from the apiary were used for the CBKA Honey Show observation hive and for an observation hive for the Stourbridge fair. The observation hives create huge interest at the shows amongst all age groups.

Bees were still busy collecting nectar during late August, but we decided to take off the honey supers on 22 August so that the *Varroa* treatment could be applied while the weather was still warm. There were 32 supers taken off the original 13 CBKA hives, and another five supers off the three hives Bill Block donated. Bill's hives had wired frames so were spun out, while the rest of the supers with unwired frames were extracted using the CBKA Apimelter. Overall, this amounted to a record apiary yield of 800lbs, significantly up on the previous best; the late summer flow was a major contributor to this. After extracting the honey and wax with the Apimelter, the 363 frames were cleaned using the Easisteam. The supers are marked to the hives and kept separated by boards in the stacks so they can be reused on the same hives next season. These will be rewaxed at our frame-making parties in February and March. The wax was cleaned and traded for fresh foundation at Thornes.

All of the hives were treated with Apiguard on 3 September and feed was added to some hives. A number of hives were quite heavy and the bees were

very actively foraging. A shed painting and maintenance session was held on 27 October; it was another very sociable occasion and well supported. Thanks go to Milly, Anne-Marie, Joan, Serge, Adrien, Paul and Jane for their help. All hives were treated for *Varroa* with Apibioxal liquid glycerol oxalic acid treatment by trickling on 14 December and fondant was added where necessary.

The apiary managers would like to thank everyone who has helped throughout the year. The association remains very grateful to Chivers Farms Ltd for their continued support of the CBKA apiary at Bedlam Farm, Impington.

Roy Cross and Peter Dawson, Apiary Managers

Bourn Apiary Report

ALL FOURTEEN OVERWINTERED colonies came through the winter into 2024, thanks to Mark Taylor's regular fortnightly checks where fondant continued to be required, sometimes in quite large amounts due to the mild winter weather. The mild conditions meant there was no real break in the brood with queens continuing to lay throughout the winter. Fortunately, we had treated for *Varroa* with Apivar during the autumn to avoid oxalic acid treatment because this would have killed brood and set the colonies back for spring growth.

Unfortunately, I was out of action for the first three months of the year and in February became the proud owner of a new hip. Two working parties were organised by the group in my absence, to prepare for the coming season, and by the middle of March I was back beekeeping, all be it on light duties. The four colonies over-wintered in our new Abelo six-frame poly nucs had done exceptionally well, with two being moved into brood boxes and two being split into four new nucs.

Four colonies were made ready for the beginner practical sessions. Over three Wednesday evenings in May, our group of beginners were able to experience live bee colonies for the first time. As well as colony management, advice was given on disease management and biosecurity. A Practical Apiary Meeting (PAM), entitled Sustainable Queens, was held in June. Producing local queens from local stock is always better than buying in queens, which

will most likely have originated from abroad and could easily contaminate your bees. Since Brexit, successive governments have continued to drag their heels and adequate animal border controls are still not in place. Sixteen members attended the PAM and explored various simple methods to sustain a small apiary with colony increase and queen production.

I am pleased to say we were again able to supply all our beginners who wanted bees with a starter nuc reared on site, although something of a challenge due to the very wet spring. A catalogue of weather-related problems beset our early mating programme, including queens unable to leave the hive to mate, queens not mating properly and queens not returning from mating flights. The prolonged wet spell also devastated honey production right across our region with reports of spring honey crops far below average.

Happily, the second half of the season saw a marked improvement in our regional weather and the bees responded accordingly. Colonies began to grow at breakneck speed, so splits were regularly being made and nucs were suddenly in abundance. As a breeding apiary we don't aim to produce much honey, but this year we had enough honey to keep all our bees happy throughout the autumn.

Apistan was used for autumn *Varroa* treatment, by way of good practice in not using the same medication year on year, and we will not treat with oxalic acid over winter. The bees certainly seem more comfortable with the *Varroa* strips and it is possible to treat and feed at the same time, which means supers can be left on for much longer and removed just before treatment begins. Our climate is certainly changing, along with the bees' foraging habits. Summer crops are getting later and more farmers are sowing a second later catch crop such as sunflowers and *Phacelia*, as well as green manure crops.

Autumn feeding, *Varroa* treating and winter-proofing of the fifteen colonies set up to go through winter was completed in good time and in November nine members of the group had a very enjoyable end of season evening at the Red House restaurant in Longstowe.

Although this year was exceptional in offering a bumper crop of summer honey (I even had to use a step ladder to remove stacks of supers from my own hives) the first half of the year was somewhat challenging. If we look closely, we can see our bees adapting to the fast changing climate. Beekeeping has never been along straight lines and the bees don't read the same books as we do. I'm sure 2025 will be just as challenging, but if we work with our bees

and adapt our methods accordingly our beekeeping will remain fun.

Thanks to all who helped with the running of the apiary and who regularly attended on Tuesday evenings, and to Mark Taylor for running the WhatsApp group.

Colin Bell, Bourn Apiary Manager

New Apiary Report

IN ORDER TO support the membership and have facilities for ongoing training and instruction, the Committee are looking for a site in which they can develop a permanent teaching apiary. The aim is to have appropriate on-site facilities that would become the CBKA base and a centre of excellence for Cambridgeshire beekeeping. The intention is that this would support our existing network of apiaries such as Bourn and Impington.

With this in mind, CBKA would wish to acquire land within Cambridgeshire that, in addition to an apiary site would allow for the erection of a structure for equipment storage, lectures and training away from the bees. We are looking for a site of about an acre, with the ability to connect to services (electricity and water), vehicular access with parking/space for the creation of parking, and an area for bees away from direct contact with the public. This site would need to be either acquired by CBKA or on a long-term lease to justify the investment. This is a significant capital project and ,whilst the Association has some funds allocated, fundraising would be necessary once we have identified a suitable site.

We have approached a number of organisations around the county, but none as yet has yielded a suitable site. We would, therefore, be delighted to hear from any members who may have contacts who are able to help with the identification and provision of a site. If you are able to help in any way, please contact me by email at richard.strugnell@cbka.org.uk.

Richard Strugnell

Practical Apiary Management Sessions

THIS IS THE first year since lockdown that PAMs have been run. The events are for all members who have kept bees for at least one season, and they are run at the three association apiaries: Wandlebury, Bourn and Impington. There is a strong practical element to each event, with demonstrations on the association's hives and group discussions. Numbers are kept to manageable levels to enable everyone to see and interact.

There was a total of 86 attendances, with several people who attended more than one PAM session. There were six sessions across the three association apiaries: Swarm prevention and swarm control; Hive inspection concentrating on diseases and pests; Simple methods of making colony increases; Frame management for colony health and brood production; Uncapping, extracting and filtering the season's honey harvest; Methods for assessing and treating *Varroa*. The subjects were topical to the season and the feedback from each session was very positive.

We are planning a series of sessions for the 2025 season and would be pleased to hear of topics that would be of interest. We would like more beekeepers with experience to join in with these sessions. They need not be leaders of the sessions, but their contributions to the discussions will be appreciated. Thanks go to all those that led and helped to run the sessions; this includes John Rayner, Stephen Poyser, Roy Cross, Peter Dawson, Colin Bell, Mark Taylor, Jonathan Baynes, Lal Goodfellow, Ken Ratcliffe, Nynke Blömer, Lesley Fletcher, Philip Turon.

Peter Dawson, PAMS Coordinator

CBKA Equipment Use

RECORDED BORROWING OF CBKA equipment from the Wandlebury bee-shed for the period 2016 to 2024 is shown overleaf. This is not a comprehensive list, because some items were taken without being signed out and some items were out for a significant time as a single booking (e.g. virtual hives for events and several series of talks). In addition to the items listed, do not

	2016	2107	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Extractors	79	106	79	65	85	60	73	58	56
Pratley trays	39	52	39	35	38	22	35	26	19
Honey tanks	24	25	18	13	17	15	21	23	23
Wax melter	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	4	4
Easi-steam	0	10	1	4	1	2	9	3	3
Virtual hive	7	9	5	7	0	1	5	8	3
Creamer-paddle	-	-	-	2	1	0	2	1	0
Candle moulds	-	-	-	3	2	0	2	4	1
Apimelter	-	-	-	-	7	7	7	4	3

forget that the CBKA have filters, an electric uncapping knife, two uncapping trays, candle moulds and wax processing equipment, including a solar wax extractor, which can be borrowed if required.

The records indicate that the yield of honey in 2024 was likely to be slightly less than 2023. This was quite probably due to the unusual weather we had in the spring and early summer, when colonies were trying to build up and were unable to do so or to gather surplus nectar. It may, however, also be as a result of members keeping more hives, and consequently investing in the ownership of their own extractor?

A reminder that when you borrow a Pratley tray, you ensure you take the correct electric lead, because there are three different types; you will have had a wasted journey if you take the wrong lead for the tray you have borrowed. When returning a Pratley tray, please ensure the electric lead, wax filter and wooden uncapping board are also returned. Do not move a Pratley tray when it is full of hot water because you will risk fracturing the soldered seams on the tray and this is a problem for us to repair. During the year, Bill Clark repaired an extractor, renewed guards around the gears on two more, repaired a Pratley Tray and several honey taps. We are also aware of at least two other repairs to leaks of Pratley Trays being carried out by members, for which we are grateful.

Please return any equipment in a state you would want to find it. If you find, when you are using an item, that something is broken, or it breaks whilst you are using it, please inform us so that repairs can be implemented before somebody else takes the item home only to find they have had a wasted journey.

The access track to the bee-shed has a gate and chain, with a combination padlock fitted by the CBKA to the Wandlebury Wardens' padlock. Please **link our padlock through the chain and the Wardens' padlock** when leaving the site, to enable both the CBKA members and the Wardens to unlock and use the track. The bee-shed is fitted with movement sensors to switch the lights on and off; therefore, you do not need to find a switch to turn the lights off when you leave, but do please make sure you lock the bee-shed door.

In order to ensure only members of the CBKA use the equipment, when you contact us for the access codes you may be kept waiting on the phone – even though we may recognise your name – which is while your 2025 membership details are checked. **In order to borrow equipment, you will need both the gate padlock code and the new door code; the door code will be changed again in 2025.** Please **do not pass the bee-shed access codes to others**, otherwise we have no knowledge of who has borrowed equipment or even if they are still members of the CBKA.

Please keep borrowed equipment for as short a time as possible (7 days as a maximum) because it is inconsiderate to other CBKA members for anyone to have equipment out for a long period of time. Do remember in 2025 to be considerate of other members if you borrow any equipment.

Please ensure you book the equipment out and back in when appropriate, putting details on the note-pad hanging adjacent to the extractors, and please write clearly and legibly because we need to know who you are. 2024 was a particularly bad year for handwriting as many of the entries in the notepad could not be read and, therefore, we had no idea who had taken some items of equipment. In addition to this, some items have been taken from the shed and subsequently not returned without being signed out; at the time of making this report in early January 2025 there are 11 items missing from the shed with no record of who has them, these include Extractors, Pratley Trays, Honey settling tanks and a wax extractor.

As a result of both Stephen Poyser and Bill Clark needing to withdraw from dealing with the equipment shed at Wandlebury, the CBKA will be advising members of new procedures for borrowing equipment in 2025.

Bill Clark and Stephen Poyser, Wandlebury Equipment Coordinators

Beginners' Course Report

OUR ANNUAL BEGINNERS' course continues to be incredibly popular, with many of those attending doing so based on positive reviews from friends and family who have attended previous courses. 160 individuals contacted me during late 2023 and early 2024 to express an interest, and in the event we had over 50 would-be beekeepers attending the 2024 lectures in what was to be Stephen Poyser's final year of running them. Once again, these took place on four Saturdays at Chesterton Community College in February and March, followed by three practical sessions for each participant at one of our three training apiaries in the late spring. The course was rounded off by further lectures in October (to prepare for winter) and January (to prepare for spring).

The Beginners' course is probably the Association's largest undertaking. Not only does it last a full year, but a host of volunteers are involved at every stage. The initial lecture series involved nine volunteers, a further 27 volunteers for the practical sessions at the three apiaries, and then yet another 31 members volunteered to mentor beginners. I would like to thank everyone for giving so generously of their time to introduce our ancient craft to a new generation of beekeepers. I strongly believe that getting our beginners off to the best possible start is essential to convert what may simply be an initial curiosity into a life-long passion. I also believe that teaching the beginners is immensely rewarding for all of those involved, and I hope that everyone who did so enjoyed their involvement as much as I did. If anyone reading this would like to get involved with the course, then please let me know.

Notwithstanding these efforts, we continue to see a drop-off rate of approximately 50%, with half of the original attendees from the spring lecture course completing a full year of beekeeping. Those who do not go on to keep bees do so for a wide variety of reasons. As far as I am aware, none do so because they did not enjoy the course itself, or felt that the volunteers teaching lacked enthusiasm or ability. Some simply attend to learn more about bees and beekeeping, with no intention of keeping bees at the end of the course, or are unable to commit to doing so due to a change in personal circumstances. All those who contacted me after deciding not to pursue beekeeping told me how much they had enjoyed the course, and appreciated the dedication and effort of all of the volunteers who had helped them through the course.

Peter Connor, Beginners' Course Co-ordinator



The real reason we tell beginners to wear wellies.

Yellow-Legged/Asian Hornets

By now, all beekeepers will be aware of Yellow-Legged hornets (YLH) and their potential for devastating the UK insect population, particularly honeybees. There has been plenty of publicity by BBKA and the media generally, not least on *The Archers*. If you are not confident that you can identify a YLH amongst our native fauna take a look at the BBKA website. It will also tell you how to advise NBU of any sightings, preferably using the Asian Hornet Watch app. Contact CBKA if you want further information.

A slight respite in the YLH incursion was seen in 2024, with only 24 nests found compared with 72 in 2023. However, this was probably due to poor conditions in spring last year rather than preventative activity and we cannot think other than continued incursions will occur. Indeed, 2025 has seen its first YLH being found – in a consignment of shallots!

CBKA has instigated an early warning system to identify the YLH should it appear in our area; 40 members living at carefully spaced intervals across the county and supplied with zero-bycatch traps, act as sentinels and, as yet, thankfully, have not recorded the pest.

We are grateful to those members who have supported CBKA in this project. Last year's work was to establish the sentinel network to trap foraging workers, but soon we will turn our attention to queen trapping. In spring, mated YLH will be emerging from hibernation and seeking food before establishing small primary nests. Trapping queens at this stage has proved effective elsewhere and we will be prepared. CBKA uses Gard'apis traps, carefully designed to only catch YLH. If you want to set traps please use these traps or similar. Homemade traps often have a very high incidence of catching non-target species, particularly European Hornets. As responsible beekeepers we should not want to reduce the populations of our native insects, as ill-designed traps do.

Philip Turon, CBKA YLH Coordinator (philip.turon@cbka.org.uk)

The Inspector's Brief

THE YEAR 2024 saw the tail end of multiple storms, freezing and mild temperatures, and the promises of an excellent spring flow with buds and flowers set. The National Bee Unit's (NBU) Eastern region, in which the CBKA is located, has undergone its own changes in the last year. Christopher Milton finds himself managing the NBU team as the CBKA's Regional Bee Inspector (RBI). With a foot in both camps, I remain committed to inspections in and around Cambridge and now manage the Western Region. This coincided with a road accident on the May bank holiday that resulted in my left shoulder and two ribs broken, along with a crushed spinal vertebra. That said, the spring harvest was decent despite the rain, and the summer harvest, for those who capitalised on the late season, will have been excellent too. With injuries healing and a little help, I was in the same camp and continued inspections and working my own stock.

With that in mind, varying approaches to management of *Varroa*, or none at all that has sadly become increasingly widespread across Cambridge, will have seen background levels of this colony-killing parasite at high levels into the autumn. Calls for collapsed colonies, with autopsies revealing mite pressure synergising with post-December conditions, have begun to arrive, frequently misattributed to poisoning before further investigation.

With '*Varroa* 2.0', aka *Tropilaelaps*, beginning to be identified in Eastern Europe in 2024, and a serious threat to colony survival, there has never been a better time to brush-up on *Varroa* management since there is much crossover between the parasites. This year you will find me at the disease session of the CBKA improvers' course, touting updated materials online from the NBU, essential reading whether using husbandry or chemical approaches. There was one distressing phone call received, pertained to the use of oxalic acid vapour with no protective equipment; the beekeeper was horrified to learn that involving her young daughter under these conditions was hazardous. Whatever your approach, please revise the precise method of application and withdrawal of varroacides, and take all safety precautions recommended. One beekeeper in particular, who supplies local businesses with honey, was found with amitraz strips in their wet supers, introducing this chemical treatment into the food chain. You can imagine I was not impressed to hear from the beekeeper in question that their response was "people eat worse"!

The eradication plan in 2024 of what is now known as the Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH, formerly Asian Hornet), saw a robust tracking and tracing effort, with 24 nests destroyed, whilst trapping in areas of interest yielded numerous workers and foundress queens. Two nests in 2024 (Coldred, Kent, and Udimore, East Sussex) were identified as likely descendants of queens released from nests destroyed in late 2023 (Alkham, Kent, and Four Oaks/Rye, East Sussex, respectively). This is not wholly unexpected as queens were trapped in these areas, and not strongly indicative of an established population. The 2025 hornet season has certainly already started however, with those responsible for YLH response already engaged throughout winter and into January. Watch official communications from the NBU or APHA for details.

Spring trapping is to begin imminently; with progenitor queens emerging from hibernacula, the target is to prevent nest establishment. Please contact the CBKA's Hornet Coordinator for details of the Association's action plan, and offer your assistance for surveillance if you are able. Public awareness, collaboration and refined processes remain cornerstones of an effective response to eradicate this invasive insect. The easiest option to help is to **download the Asian Hornet Watch app** for photo submission and reporting all in one place. I would caution for trapping as it behoves us to ensure we check for and free any by-catch in our traps. The ecological risk from thousands of unmonitored traps destroying the local insect population is exactly the damage we are all working to avoid by preventing YLH becoming established.

European foulbrood remains persistent within and without the city limits of Cambridge, with hygiene, splitting diseased colonies and introduction of swarms to drawn comb being the main contributing factors. I received few call-outs this last year, which may be indicative of a lower level of disease, but as ever, **"If in doubt, give Jack a shout!"** I always welcome contact from beekeepers, especially where I can often reply within 24 hours, providing relief for misidentified and less serious disorders, or even just mouldy pollen. I would happily receive and relieve 1000 emails with pictures of pollen to identify a single case of EFB. I can be reached by email at **Jack.Silberrad@apha.gov.uk** or by text, WhatsApp and telephone on **07776 165869**. Bee Disease Insurance continues to function extremely well, with insured beekeepers receiving compensation within days of treatment, most of which involved shook-swarms with comparatively few destructions.

If you know somebody who has gone through this process, please speak to them if they are willing, and I am sure they will echo the positive experiences of other beekeepers.

For any aspiring beekeeper who wants the easiest route to up-to-date manuals and information, including on *Varroa* (look for my photograph of a phoretic mite on a queen!) with an updated treatment list, EFB that now has much refined wording, and all manner of advice on hygiene and best practice, just drop me an email and I'll return links directly to resources; simple!

I remain committed to supporting Cambridgeshire's beekeepers, and those wider afield, and am grateful for the assistance rendered to me this year. For anyone curious about a career as a bee inspector, recruitment for various regions will begin in spring and I welcome contact to discuss the role as a Seasonal Bee Inspector. I very much look forward to working with you in 2025.

Jack Silberrad (Authorised Bee Inspector – Eastern region, Regional Bee Inspector – Western region)

The CBKA Library

WE HAVE OVER 200 books in the CBKA Library, which can be found at Central Library, Grand Arcade, Cambridge. The books are stored as part of the Cambridge Collections and are available to borrow for all current CBKA members. The updated book list is on the website. The library includes many books that are useful to anyone wishing to take any of the BBKA modules or the Basic Assessment, or to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge of any aspect of beekeeping. Please do get in touch if you have any questions about the book collection or if you wish to suggest new titles for us to purchase and add to the collection.

Alison Goodfellow

Examination Report

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. Sue Snape who has passed her Basic Certificate with a Credit.

Events Coordinator Report

THE CBKA ATTENDED nine Fairs and Shows during 2024, where volunteer members experienced great interest from visitors keen to learn about bees and beekeeping. The year started with the CBKA display of honey, honeybees and other pollinators, taken to the annual two-day Cambridge Natural History Conversazione on Friday/Saturday 19/20 April. This display of research and continuing work on fauna and flora in the local area is held in the Zoology Department New Museum Site.

Reach Fair was granted a charter by King John in 1201 and is held on the May Bank Holiday; Monday 6 May in 2024. The displays of music, dancing, Morris men, craft and charity stalls, along with fairground rides, is opened by the Cambridge Mayor when newly minted coins are thrown to the crowd of visitors. The warmer weather meant an observation hive could now be stocked and this always proves popular with visitors, bringing many questions and increased honey sales. Our unending thanks to Pam Fearn and Peter Bates for acting as perennial leaders for this event.

The Cambridgeshire County Show was held on 1 June at a new location in Abbots Ripton near Huntingdon. This Young Farmers event promotes British food and farming with livestock, rural crafts, competitions and trade stands. The bee display was taken to Oakington Garden Centre on 21 June and this was followed by a similarly small event at Offord Cluny. Grateful thanks go to Philip Turon for ably leading these three events near Huntingdon.

The CBKA Honey Show at the Cambridge Country Fair at Stow-cum-Quy was over the weekend of 10/11 August. This is a massive organisational feat and CBKA's heartfelt thanks go to Pam Fearn and Sandra Chapman for the superb management. All judges, exhibitors and the large team of volunteer helpers are thanked for their vital work.

Saturday 7 September CBKA were at Stourbridge Fair, organised by Cambridge Past Present and Future at the Leper Chapel in Cambridge. This fair started 800 year ago and had craft displays including willow-weaving and wood-carving, storytelling and dancing, with many participants in medieval dress. The fair is formally opened by University dignitaries, features fascinating history tales, and the refreshments sold inside the chapel included superb cakes. Thanks go to the Wandlebury Warden for taking our marquee and to Ben Brard for leading and transporting the rest of the equipment

to this delightful event. Huge thanks to Peter Dawson for producing large quantities of CBKA Bourn and Impington honey plus creating the Observation Hive for this and many other shows.

Gransden and District Agricultural Society's Annual Show epitomises a real country show with classes for horses, rare breeds, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, dogs and produce. Set to be held on 29 September, torrential rain on the night before left the show ground flooded so this year's event was cancelled on the morning of the show. Urgent phone calls luckily caught Peter Dawson and Roy Cross on their way to stock the observation hive and sadly all volunteers had an unexpectedly free day. Many thanks go to Derek Blatch for his work in jarring honey and fetching the equipment from the Wandlebury Store.

The jars of honey did not stay unsold for long as Susan Wilkie organised the CBKA stall at St John's Ecofest, held at the church in Hills Road, Cambridge on 12 October, and also ran the half-term event at Darwin Nurseries Apple Day on Tuesday 29 October. Despite being too cold to provide an observation hive, practically all the honey jars were bought by families.

Many CBKA members took on extra roles to ensure the smooth running of our stalls and honey sales this year, with these nine shows providing total takings of £5,216. The vast majority of this resulted from the sale of CBKA honey, which helps boost the funds for running the CBKA and our teaching apiaries at Wandlebury, Impington and Bourn. This could not happen without our teams of volunteers for each show, and so grateful thanks go to all for their input and time. From the honey sales at each event, 10% of profits are donated to the host show organisation in lieu of a stall fee, and we further fulfil the main aim of our charitable status to promote the craft of beekeeping to a wider audience. The events accounted for the sale of 931 jars of honey, with the vast majority being 1lb jars.

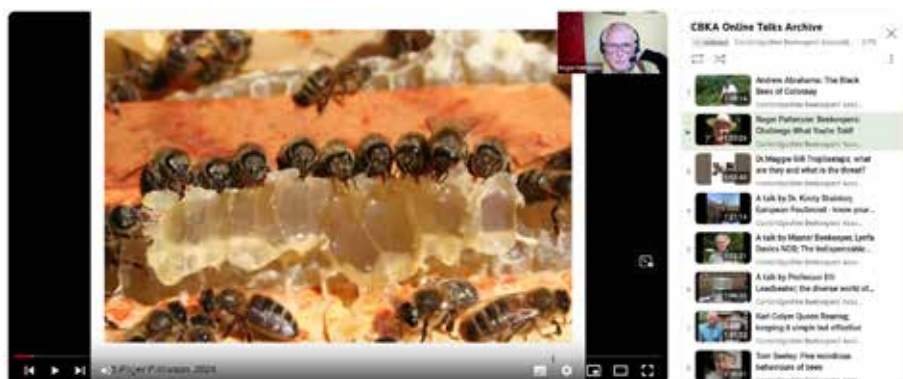
Stephen Poyser continued to monitor honey amounts and provide jars of CBKA honey for the shows and will be sorely missed as he retires. Hazel Bickle has developed an allergy to bee stings, and so has had to stop beekeeping. Organising the fairs and shows has been fun most of the time and certainly felt a way of giving back to CBKA for the joy of beekeeping. All best wishes to those taking on the various roles as we hand on the baton.

Hazel Bickle and Stephen Poyser

A year of talking about bees

DURING 2024, THERE were 15 talks offered, with audience numbers of between 160 and 330. Themes including beekeeping in ancient Egypt, the future threat of *Tropilaelaps*, how to prevent swarming, queen rearing and preparing nucs, were covered, as well as Tom Sealey sharing his beekeeping expertise. Our audience is very international, with regulars zooming in from the USA, Canada, many EU countries and most counties in the UK. One of our regular audience members commented recently *“I so much enjoyed the presentation. You and your team are doing a great job in securing unique and only-place-in-the-world locations for specific bees. The CBKA is top shelf when it comes to unique and extraordinary presentations!”*

The One-Day Seminar in March brought experts together to discuss Future Challenges: the impact of climate change on bees and beekeepers’ behaviours. More than 70 people attended to hear the excellent presentations; Dr Maggie Gill, Professor Giles Budge, Karl Colyer, and Diane Drinkwater all spoke about pests and diseases, and ways of managing our hives to facilitate healthy colonies that are more likely to survive these challenges. It was a fascinating day and a great opportunity to meet and talk to other local beekeepers. The stalls were busy, with lots of interest in the mead, artisan soaps, and Northern Bee Books, and all doing a good trade. Being in St John’s College for the day was a treat in itself.



Accessing the talks programme

If you've not caught up with the talks, you can find most of them in the online talks archive listed in the members services area of the CBKA website, as shown in the picture on the previous page. The archive is a rich resource of technical information and interesting related topics. The associate membership has grown significantly as people have supported the talks programme, and these additional fees cover most of the costs.

The talks for the current programme are being advertised on the CBKA website, and via Mailchimp, Eventbrite and TicketTailor. If you book through TicketTailor, using the links in the Mailchimp newsletter, there is no charge for the free tickets; however, Eventbrite charge a booking fee even when the ticket is free. Therefore, do make sure you open your Mailchimp newsletters and add it to your contacts list so that they don't reside in junk/spam. Remember to check your email for the Zoom link sent out to all ticket holders, and allow time to register with Zoom before joining at the start of the talk.

The working group that runs the talks programme are keen to recruit new volunteers. It is a good way of being involved with the CBKA, without joining the committee. The working group currently consists of Lal Goodfellow, Susan Wilkie, Nynke Blömer, Robin Lea, Sally Knowles, Heather Lloyd Jones, Jaquie Finn and Alison Turnbull. We meet about four times a year in a pub. You can get in touch with us by email at talks@cbka.org.uk. We would love to hear from you, whether you want to join in, or if there is a particular speaker or subject you'd like to request, so please do get in touch!

Alison Turnbull, CBKA Talks Coordinator

Annual Prizegiving Dinner

THE 2024 ANNUAL Prizegiving Dinner took place on Thursday 5 December, at Cambridge Regional College. Once again, the students at the College cooked an excellent meal for the 50 beekeepers and partners who attended.

It is always a pleasure to catch up and swap stories with so many friends in such a pleasant and relaxed environment. It is probably the only opportunity at the end of the year to hear how others' bees performed during the season, what worked and what did not, and what plans members have to do things differently in the year ahead.

It is also of course our opportunity to celebrate the prize winners from the Honey Show. I am grateful to all of the prize winners who were able to attend in person to collect their trophies, and to Sandra Chapman, the Honey Show Secretary, for her hard work in organising and preparing all of the trophies for the evening.

If anyone would like to get involved in organising the 2025 Annual Dinner then please let me know.

Peter Connor



AGM Minutes

Minutes of the CBKA Annual General Meeting, held on Sunday 14 April 2024 at 2.30pm at Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Avenue, Cambridge CB1 1AA

Apologies and Chairman's Introduction: Apologies were received from Professor Glover, Daniel Zeichner MP, Alison Turnbull, Andrew McKeown, Peter Dawson. The meeting was quorate with 34 voting members attending.

Chairman's report: Please see the 2023 CBKA Yearbook for all Committee reports. Paul thanked all the CBKA members who had volunteered to help the Association in the past year. The Association has a substantial fund for buying CBKA's own apiary which remains difficult to find.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved without a formal vote.

Treasurer's report, including presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023: See the 2023 CBKA Yearbook for a full report from the Treasurer. The Association continued to make over £5,000 during the year and the bank balance remained healthy.

Election of Trustees: In accordance with CBKA's constitution, one third of the Association's Trustees must step down at the AGM and, if so willing, offer themselves for re-election. This year, the following stepped down:

- Chair – Paul Schofield stood down from the committee and did not seek re-election.
- Vice Chair – Doug Brown stood down from the committee and did not seek re-election.

Elections took place for the following positions (all duly elected):

- Editor – Peter Bates stood down as editor and stood for re-election. Proposed by Peter Connor, seconded by Alison Goodfellow.
- Chair – Peter Connor was nominated, proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded Hazel Bickle.
- Vice-Chair – Sally Knowles was nominated, proposed by Alison Goodfellow, seconded by Philip Turon.
- Secretary – Jonathan Baynes was nominated, proposed by Philip Turon, seconded by Susan Wilkie.

The position of Treasurer was open, following Peter Connor's election as Chair. This post remained unfilled because no one was nominated. A treasurer would be sought from the CBKA membership as a matter of urgency.

Election of up to six Committee Members: In accordance with the CBKA's constitution, the Association's non-trustee Committee Members must step down at the AGM and, if so willing, offer themselves for re-election. The following Committee Members had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: Alison Goodfellow, Philip Turon, Alison Turnbull.

Further nominations were received from Nynke Blömer, David Edwards, Richard Strugnell.

- Alison Goodfellow, proposed by Peter Connor, seconded by Sally Knowles
 - Philip Turon proposed by Jonathan Baynes, seconded by Peter Bates
 - Alison Turnbull proposed by Jonathan Baynes, seconded by Alison Goodfellow
 - Nynke Blömer proposed by Alison Turnbull, seconded by Alison Goodfellow
 - David Edwards proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded by Stephen Poyser
 - Richard Strugnell proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded by Peter Bates
- All carried by the meeting and duly elected.

Election of CBKA President: Bill Clark – was re-appointed as President.

CBKA Vice Presidents: Professor Glover, Daniel Zeichner, MP, and James Littlewood were reappointed.

Honorary Members 2023: The new chair, Peter Connor, announced that the Committee had proposed that Roy Cross and Paul Schofield were awarded Honorary Membership for their many years of service to CBKA.

Roy Cross has worked tirelessly at the Impington Apiary as Assistant Manager and Manager, and helping with the Beginners Courses, in particular with the practical sessions.

Paul Schofield had held the posts of Editor, Vice-Chair and Chair for two terms.

Their medals are to be presented at a future date.
Both Roy and Paul were thanked and applauded for their efforts
The proposal was accepted by the meeting unopposed.

AOB and questions for the Committee: A question was raised as to why the membership had increased so dramatically over the past year compared to 2022. The Membership Secretary, Martin Kendall, explained that much of the increase was in Associate Membership because of the enthusiasm for the Online Talks Programs. There was also a change to the year start date and this could have caused an accounting anomaly for 2022.

The seasonal bee inspector (SBI), Jack Silberrad, stressed that not enough beginners were registering on BeeBase. Although registration was promoted at the Beginner's theory classes, Stephen Poyser suggested that more could be done at the practical sessions to remind the Beginners again to register, and particularly when they pick up their first bees. A comment was made that proof of registration might be made mandatory before any bees were handed over to beginners.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Treasurer's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024.

I AM PLEASED to report that the Association had another successful year, fulfilling its charitable objectives and generating a surplus of approximately £5,200 (compared to c. £5,100 in 2023) for future activities. During 2024, the Association has undertaken a wide range of activities, and that is only possible due to the efforts of the many volunteers who so generously offer their time and efforts to support our training activities and attend events. I would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Summary of income and expenditure for 2024: The following table summarises the income and expenditure in 2024, together with the equivalent figures for 2023, categorised by each source of income and its associated costs, with further detail on each set out in the narrative below the table.

		2024			2023		
		Inc. £	Exp £.	Net £.	Inc. £	Exp. £	Net £
1	From / on behalf of members	15,785	(10,258)	5,527	16,756	(11,635)	5,121
2	Educational activities	7,593	(8,259)	(666)	7,083	(6,275)	808
3	The sale of products	6,609	(3,148)	3,461	5,124	(2,684)	2,440
4	Other income, including GiftAid	4,534	-	4,534	2,981	-	2,981
5	Running the Association's apiaries	-	(3,790)	(3,790)	-	(3,971)	(3,971)
6	Running the Association	-	(3,858)	(3,858)	-	(2,234)	(2,234)
7	Grants to research organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-
		34,521	(29,313)	5,208	31,944	(26,799)	5,145

Income: The CBKA derives its income from the following sources:

1. **Members' subscriptions and donations.** The largest source of the CBKA's income is members' subscriptions and donations. The total received from members, including amounts they paid for additional BDI insurance and donations towards research, was c. £15,800. This total was c. £1,000 lower than the year before, which had included £900 of members' subscriptions for Beecraft that had no equivalent this year because members subscribed directly with Beecraft. Total subscription income increased by c. £500 compared to 2023, with a slight reduction in Ordinary and Partner members being more than compensated for by additional Associate members; there was no change in membership rates during 2024. However, donations received from members with their subscriptions were c. £500 lower than in 2023.

2. Educational activities. The second largest source of income for the CBKA is normally its educational activities, comprising the Beginners' Course and the One-Day Seminar, plus other events, such as the Bee Disease Day, coach trips and the Annual Dinner.

The Beginners' Course was once again a great success, while the One-Day Seminar and the Annual Dinner were both well attended with ticket sales of £2,900 and £1,600, respectively.

3. The sale of products. The public's demand for high -quality honey, when it is available, remains strong. Despite poor weather resulting in the cancellation of the Gransden Show, one of the larger shows we normally attend, income from the sale of honey, both on behalf of members and that from the Association's apiaries, increased by £1,200 compared to 2023. This was supplemented by the sale of some surplus equipment for c. £500.

4. Other income. Other income is primarily GiftAid, which remains a very welcome supplement to the Association's income. It effectively funds the day-to-day administrative costs of running the Association, enabling the Trustees to channel all of the income from members and the Association's other activities into its charitable activities. Therefore, I encourage all members who are able to allow us to take advantage of GiftAid to do so on their membership renewal forms. Other income also includes interest from our cash reserves, which totalled nearly £900 this year, as the Association benefited from higher interest rates.

Expenditure: Expenditure during the year related to the following:

1. On behalf of members. The majority of the subscriptions paid by members is paid across to organisations such as the BBKA and BDI. In 2023, this also included c. £900 paid on members' behalf to Beecraft. Bank fees for processing members' payments were flat at c. £400.

2. Educational activities. Expenditure on educational activities relates primarily to room hire and speakers' fees for the Beginners' Course and our talks programme, together with the cost of the One-Day Seminar and the Annual Dinner. For the first time, in 2024, c. £800 went on traps for yellow-legged hornets.

3. Products for sale. Costs associated with the sale of products primarily comprise the purchase of honey from members, the cost of jars and labels for the Association's honey, and the cost of attending events, especially the Honey

Show. The increase in these costs in 2024 was primarily due to increases in the costs of holding the Honey Show.

4. Running the Association's apiaries. The total cost of running the Association's apiaries at Bourn, Impington and Wandlebury, was broadly the same as 2023, although the Association did spend c. £800 on roofing material for the shed at Bourn. The Association's apiary managers and their teams do a wonderful job of managing the apiaries and supporting the teaching and training that we do. I would like to thank them all for their hard work once again in 2024.

6. Running the Association. A significant proportion of the costs of running the Association used to be printing and postage, including this Yearbook. These have been falling for a number of years as communication has moved online – with a corresponding increase in website and related costs. In particular, the Association has reached a size where it is required to pay for a number of IT services and tools, which used to be free when it was a smaller organisation.

As noted above, GiftAid and other income currently funds these activities, and the Trustees constantly seek to minimise the administrative costs of the Association. However, inflation has increased the vast majority of our costs as it has for so many others.

7. Research grants. The Association has previously contributed to the funding of a specific PhD student, in conjunction with other local associations as part of the East Anglia Research Student ('EARS') scheme. However, the individual expected to start their PhD last year deferred the start of their course and so funding for that specific project was not drawn down. At the same time, there has been a change of personnel in other associations involved in EARS. Philip Turon of the CBKA has kindly volunteered to take on the management of a revived EARS scheme, and we expect to resume funding research once a suitable project has been identified.

Reserves: The surplus for the year has increased the Association's reserves to c. £90,000. The majority of the Association's assets are held in cash, and the closing cash balance was c. £83,000. The Trustee's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to protect the Association from potential reductions in its future income, whilst also generating the initial funding that would be required to establish a centre of excellence for beekeeping in the Cambridge area. The

level of reserves is reviewed regularly by the Trustees to ensure that they are adequate, but not excessive, for the Association's current and forecast activities, whilst noting that the costs of a centre of excellence cannot be estimated reliably until a suitable location has been identified and additional funding may be required in future to realise this longer-term ambition.

Outlook for 2025: The Trustees expect the recent level of income to be maintained, because the number of members is expected to be consistent with 2024, and we plan to run the same courses and events as we did last year. However, costs are expected to increase as inflation impacts all parts of the economy, and the Trustees intend to invest in equipment to help tackle the increasingly imminent threat of the Asian Hornet. The Trustees therefore expect a more modest surplus, if any, for 2025 as a whole. The Association is fortunate that it has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

Appointment of new Treasurer: Having served as the Association's Treasurer since April 2018, and having been elected Chair of the Association at the AGM in 2024, I have been seeking a replacement as Treasurer to ensure that this important position receives the attention it should. I am delighted that Jane Hamilton has kindly stepped forward to take on the role of Treasurer. Jane was co-opted as a Trustee and member of the Association's management committee with effect from 1 January 2025, and will be standing for election as Treasurer at the 2025 AGM.

Peter Connor

Beekeeping 1983 to 2025

WHEN I CONFIRMED I was reluctantly ceasing beekeeping in early 2025, it was suggested I write about the changes I have seen during the period I have been keeping bees. My introduction to beekeeping was in 1969 by Harrison Ashforth (who invented the Ashforth Feeder). He was my poultry lecturer at agricultural college, but it was obvious he preferred bees to poultry when listening to his lectures.

Subsequently, in late 1982 I was given two hives of bees by a farm worker on the Trumpington Estate who had become allergic to bee stings. So, in the winter I moved the hives, on a wheelbarrow through Trumpington, to my garden and enrolled on the CBKA Beginners Course in the spring of 1983. It was held at Chesterton Community College, there was approximately 12 of us on the course, and the tutor was Bob Lemon who started by informing me (and the others) that I had probably killed the bees by disturbing them during their transport and it was certainly not the way to start trying to keep bees. However, by beginner's luck the hives survived and the hobby grew from there to such a degree that I moved the hives onto the Trumpington Estate and the apiary grew to 20 hives that did very well and produced plenty of honey.

When I first had bees there was no mention of *Varroa*, Asian hornets, open-mesh floors, climate change or other pests potentially on the way to Britain. Yes, we had wax moth, European and American foul brood (EFB and AFB), and *Braula* Mite to contend with, but the incidences of AFB and EFB around Cambridge were relatively small, with outbreaks normally in the proximity of commercial honey importing and processing facilities to the north and south of Cambridge.

The season of spring tended to start later than now and the oilseed rape flowered later than now. This meant the bees had a chance to build up their numbers before the main flow of nectar started, so yields of honey from good hives adjacent to fields of oilseed rape were often in excess of 100 lb each. In my opinion, the earlier flowering of the crop, and possible genetic modification from insect pollination to wind pollination, has resulted in significantly reduced honey yields, even before the recent reduction in acres of the crop.

The number of people keeping bees (as hobby beekeepers) has certainly increased in the last 41 years, although the numbers of equipment manufacturers and suppliers have definitely reduced. In my early days of

keeping bees, the chemicals used in agriculture were not as specific as they are now. Hive losses were often attributed to agricultural chemicals and/or aerial spraying being responsible, whereas now the chemicals used by gardeners can often be the cause of bee mortality; these chemicals are still in use, and even if not purchased for many years, they are still lurking in garden sheds, with the users being ignorant to the fact they are illegal and if used are difficult to trace back to the user.

Equipment has changed, with tin plate equipment and 28 lb honey tins (lined with a plastic bag) being in common use in the 1980's, but subsequently replaced with food-quality plastic extractors and tubs. National hives were in use, but I was not aware of 14 x 12 brood boxes being available, and although many "new" hives or modifications to equipment have come along many of them are merely reinventions of something or are similar to what had been developed many years previously.

The average size of a dwelling's garden has certainly reduced over the last 41 years and, as a result of there being more hobby beekeepers, many of them live with a garden that cannot easily house an apiary of three or more hives. Hence the need for more beekeepers on allotments or ones with hives kept on farms, which (although easier to manage) are not as convenient for keeping an eye on or undertaking quick inspections or manipulations.

There is no doubt that beekeeping has been a major part of my life and it has brought about many friendships, a wealth of knowledge and some truly memorable times. Not all good, as I recall standing in a car park at Ely, manning the CBKA stall whilst freezing cold, with snow flurries blowing around us and no members of the public to be seen. However, those are compensated by other good times, such as when moving hives of bees to borage fields in Essex at 5.00am on a wonderful early July morning, whilst having to share the field with a herd of Roe deer, four hares and a fox, all going about their business without needing to bother about a car full of hives being unloaded at the other end of the field.

The one constant during my time as a beekeeper is that if you and your bees can produce a quality product, it will sell, enabling you to finance your hobby. And perhaps now we can advertise the reduced food miles it has (if we do not advertise the significant number of miles the bees have flown to produce the honey!).

Stephen Poyser

CBKA contacts

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For a full, up-to-date list of Bee Inspectors, look at BeeBase: www.nationalbeeunit.com

Front cover: 'Chim, chim, a bee'. These bees had set up a home in an ornamental chimney - under a flower pot. They'd been there for a couple of months but were getting a bit busy so the owner now needed them to move on. Each fin was carefully cut away from the sides using a long kitchen knife. The comb was put into frames, held in place by rubber bands. Queenie was on the second comb, and was caught, marked with a green dot and caged to attract her offspring into their new hive. Victoria Darville, winner of the Joan Hall Frame for Best Photograph, Honey Show 2024.



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024		2023
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total
		£	£	£
INCOME	<i>From members</i>			
	Subscriptions	13,740		13,740
	Donations	674	837	1,511
	CBKA Newsletter	-		-
	<i>Amounts collected from members for CBKA activities</i>	<u>14,414</u>	<u>837</u>	<u>15,251</u>
	Additional BDI cover requested by members	534		534
	Members' subscriptions to Beekeepers' Quarterly and Beecraft	-		-
	Total amounts collected from members	<u>14,948</u>	<u>837</u>	<u>15,785</u>
	<i>From educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	3,063		3,063
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	-		-
	One Day Seminar	2,932		2,932
	Other courses and events	<u>1,598</u>		<u>1,598</u>
		<u>7,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,593</u>
	<i>From sale of products</i>			
	Honey (on behalf of members)	1,354		1,354
	Honey (from CBKA hives)	4,754		4,754
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	<u>501</u>		<u>501</u>
		<u>6,609</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,609</u>
	<i>Other income, including GiftAid</i>	4,398	136	4,534
	Total income	<u>33,548</u>	<u>973</u>	<u>34,521</u>
EXPENDITURE	<i>On behalf of members</i>			
	BBKA membership	(8,545)		(8,545)
	Bee Disease Insurance	(1,306)		(1,306)
	Beekeepers' Quarterly and Beecraft			-
	Bank processing fees	<u>(407)</u>		<u>(407)</u>
		<u>(10,258)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,258)</u>
	<i>On educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	(1,822)		(1,822)
	Asian hornet traps	(771)		(771)
	Improvers' training course	-		-
	One Day Seminar	(3,122)		(3,122)
	Other talks, courses and events	<u>(2,544)</u>		<u>(2,544)</u>
		<u>(8,259)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,259)</u>
	<i>On products for sale</i>			
	Honey from members	(982)		(982)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(595)		(595)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	(126)		(126)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	(1,129)		(1,129)
	Cost of attending third party events	<u>(316)</u>		<u>(316)</u>
		<u>(3,148)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,148)</u>
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>			
	Maintenance	(3,354)		(3,354)
	Capital expenditure	<u>(436)</u>		<u>(436)</u>
		<u>(3,790)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,790)</u>
	<i>On running the Association</i>			
	Insurance	(692)		(692)
	Printing and stationary	(702)		(702)
	Room hire	(295)		(295)
	Other costs	<u>(2,169)</u>		<u>(2,169)</u>
		<u>(3,858)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,858)</u>
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	-	-
	Total expenditure	<u>(29,313)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(29,313)</u>
NET INCOME		<u>4,235</u>	<u>973</u>	<u>5,208</u>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

(Registered charity No. 1183601)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024



		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges and medals	437		405	
	Jars and other packaging for honey	327		478	
	Stock of polo shirts and fleeces	1,054		124	
	Wax for processing	-		-	
	Stock of Try-A-Hives	-		-	
	Manuals for beginners	543		158	
			2,361		1,165
Receivables	Prepayments	-		-	
	GiftAid receivable	5,316		4,859	
	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150		150	
			5,466		5,009
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	6,407		7,967	
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	75,907		75,013	
	Float for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	250		51	
			82,564		83,031
Total assets			90,391		89,205
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	-		-	
	BDI paid in advance	-		-	
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	-		-	
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	-		(3,917)	
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-	
	Provision for possible charge for Wandlebury	-		-	
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)	
	Other accruals	(749)		(854)	
			(769)		(4,791)
Net assets			89,622		84,414
Represented by					
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	80,466		76,424	
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	4,235		4,042	
	At the end of the year		84,701		80,466
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	3,948		2,845	
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	973		1,103	
	Grants made during the year	-		-	
	At the end of the year		4,921		3,948
Total Funds			89,622		84,414

Note to the Accounts.

CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses, the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2021, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly.

Apiary shed- Wandlebury	£7,948	£7,792
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£5,071	£4,972
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£41,211	£40,403
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI) at each location	£9,510	£9,324
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£19,934	£19,543

Peter Connor
Chair

Auditor

I have examined the Accounts of Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Mark Cooper

Mr M Cooper



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024		2023
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total
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(Registered charity No. 1183601)

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Peter Connor
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Mark Cooper

Mr M Cooper

Accounts

CBKA Yearbook 2024



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Editor's report

THIS YEARBOOK CONTAINS the CBKA reports for the year 2023, and I am again pleased to have continued as CBKA editor, including editing and sending out the e-bulletins. Getting back to a post-covid situation again meant that the Annual General Meeting could be held in-person, at the start of April 2023, and the Minutes are included in this yearbook. CBKA were able to attend several outside events during the year, which were again very successful for talking with the public and for honey sales. Talks to schools and various organisations were able to be given by a few members and there is a report included about those. There are reports from the three CBKA apiaries, who each seemed to have had a reasonable season. Bill Block sadly passed away during the year and there is a piece about his life, as an apiary manager and a stalwart of the CBKA for many years. There are short reports on education and the CBKA library, with encouragement to see what books are available and to continue your education about beekeeping. The excellent online talks continued, with diverse speakers from around the world, attracting large audiences including many who now join as associate members. There were also a number of people who gave talks to schools and other organisations, continuing to promote beekeeping.

With regard to our beekeeping, it was definitely not a good start to the year due to the dreadful weather in March. We had six hives through the winter, all of which were out flying when it got warm at the end of February, and all had Candipolline gold on. After the cold and wet, with no forage, three had died by April. We managed to replace them with swarms, including one that suddenly appeared in a hive that had not been cleared out due to time constraints. Then caught another swarm that just sat there and appeared to be queenless, so bought and introduced a queen. However, just as they started building up, wasps appeared very early in the year and attacked the hive, killing the colony off again. As a result, we ended up with six colonies going through the winter again, all of which were treated with Apivar for varroa, seemed strong, well fed and, with Candipolline gold on, hopefully surviving okay. With the bad weather and having to replace colonies in 2023, all six hives just bult up rather than putting on honey, so unfortunately our yield was well down on previous years.

There was much talk at the end of the year about how Asian hornets are getting closer, with so many being trapped and nests destroyed, mainly along the south coast, but getting ever closer to our region. Sentinels are being organised to monitor the approach, and we all need to learn as much as we can about how to look out for, report and control the invasion that is looking increasingly likely. European Foul Brood continues to be a problem around Cambridge, and citizen science projects are being organised to look at the problem. However, if you have any concerns do contact the Bee Inspectors whose details are on the back page and in Jack's report in the yearbook. I wish you all well and that you have a successful 2024 season with your bees.

Peter Bates

Chair's Report

THIS WILL BE my final yearbook report, as I will be stepping down at the 2024 AGM, having served six years as CBKA Chair. I have written a separate report in this Yearbook for the external talks outreach programme for which I have been the co-ordinator as well as a speaker.

With the advent of an effective UK vaccination programme, Covid appears to have become less of a threat for most, and we have returned to a more normal beekeeping life. However, the routine face-to-face meetings that were held pre-Covid have evolved into either online or hybrid meetings. This includes several of our Committee meetings and the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) held each January.

In January, CBKA was approached for membership involvement in a research project by Vicky Buckle, at Anglian Ruskin University, a new PhD student of Toby Carter (himself a beekeeper and former CBKA Chair). Her research project is examining the potential competition for forage between managed honeybees and other pollinators. Vicky presented an outline of her proposal to the Committee, alongside a small Citizen Science project, to conduct insect surveys and monitor the effects of planting different types of forage in gardens and other environments. The Committee were enthusiastic to support local beekeeping research and were delighted to help. Research co-ordination was led by two of our Committee members, Philip Turon and Jonathan Baynes, and my thanks to them for driving this. Vicky visited their apiaries and areas of land were agreed for research purposes in both of their apiaries and also on land owned by local farmers.

Later in January, Philip Turon and Jonathan Baynes themselves proposed a Citizen Science project to establish the strength of wild bees in Cambridgeshire. Many beekeepers will be aware of wild honeybee colonies in their locality. Such colonies are often found in trees, chimneys and other voids in man-made structures. Rumours abound of colonies living in one location for many years, apparently surviving without human intervention post-*Varroa*. Scientific studies have shown that these are unlikely to be descendants from the original colony, but are more probably a sequence of new swarms having moved in on an old nest. The purpose of this ongoing Citizen Science project is to establish the strength and number of wild honeybees in the Cambridgeshire area, by locating and logging their colonies.

Together with neighbouring beekeeping associations in the Eastern Region, for several years CBKA has provided funding of beekeeping research via the East Associations Research Studentship (EARS) scheme. Unfortunately, in 2023 we didn't received clarity on a worthwhile research project to support and will hope to rectify this in 2024.

In February, Barny Henderson decided to step down from his role as organiser of the Improver's Course and Examinations Secretary. Here again, I wish to thank him for all of the support that he has given over several years to new and improving beekeepers. Alison (Lal) Goodfellow has kindly volunteered to step in as Examinations Secretary, and we ask CBKA members reading this to consider volunteering to take on the Improvers course. I was delighted in February to hear from Hazel Bickle that she was willing to continue to volunteer as CBKA shows co-ordinator, but with the help of a volunteer working group to spread the considerable responsibility. I thank her for her continuing support, as well as the other volunteers involved: Peter Bates, Derek Blatch, Peter Connor, Pam Fearn, Philip Turon, Stephen Poyser, and Susan Wilkie. For many years Stephen Poyser has been processing and jarring CBKA apiary honey for sale at our show stalls – thank you Stephen; this is a labour-intensive task. I was delighted to hear that Derek Blatch stepped forward to help in 2023 to take this over from Stephen – thank you Derek.

Stephen Poyser leads the ever popular CBKA Beginners course. A very large last minute 'spanner' was thrown into the plans and preparations for the 2023 course by Chesterton Community College who cancelled our booking due to budget cuts and staff redundancies. The course had to be moved from its usual eight Wednesday evening slots to four Saturdays at Chesterton; consequently, from the 140 expressions of interest there were 48 beginners enrolled. It later transpired when Stephen surveyed the attendees that they preferred the course to run over 4 days rather than 8 evenings - including Stephen himself! I am delighted to report that attendee feedback received was very positive, and thank Stephen very much yet again for leading the course, not forgetting other CBKA volunteers who supported him.

In early April, the CBKA AGM was held face-to-face at Storey's Field Centre, expertly co-ordinated by Susan Wilkie who stood down as CBKA Secretary. Thank you Susan for all of your support and dedication over the years that you have served. Jonathan Baynes has subsequently volunteered to act as temporary secretary whilst we seek a permanent volunteer – thank

you Jonathan. Alison Turnbull was welcomed as a new Committee member. At the AGM I was delighted to announce that the Committee voted to confer Honorary Life Memberships on Bill Block, Doug Brown, Liz Cox and Ann Waldock for their services to the CBKA. This was tinged with great personal sadness later, in November 2023, with the news of Bill Block's sudden very short illness and death. For 20 years, Bill Block was a dedicated and generous supporter of CBKA as a beekeeper, Impington Bedlam apiary manager, Committee member, spokesperson and mentor to many beekeepers. I feel privileged to have known him and know just how much we will all miss him.

Later in April, Sally Knowles led the ever popular CBKA one-day seminar at Wolfson College, Cambridge. This was held as a hybrid event, with attendees also being able to attend online. The event was a great success and I want again to acknowledge Sally for her organisational endurance behind the scenes, because the event had been due to take place at Chesterton Community College, but was let down by their cancellation due to budget cuts. Sally also continued to support CBKA throughout the year, as a Committee member, online talks co-ordinator, and lead on pub socials – which were her idea. Thank you Sally.

The beekeeping season was in full swing in May, and indeed there had been a report of several early April swarms in Cambridgeshire. The Beginners course practical sessions were held at our apiaries at Wandlebury, Impington and Bourn. Here I wish to acknowledge and thank our apiary managers for their support: Stephen Poyser, Bill Block, Roy Cross and Colin Bell. As members may be aware, CBKA are tenants at these apiaries and ideally would like its own teaching apiary and education centre. Doug Brown leads a working group on trying to find an affordable and suitable location close to Cambridge. In mid-May, Doug submitted an apiary proposal with this ambition to the Anglian Water Treatment Works project planned for Milton. Unfortunately, this proved unsuccessful due to some ecology advisors' concerns over the potential for honeybees to out-compete other insect foragers at the location. Doug continues to investigate potential sites and I thank him for his work on this as well as on the Committee.

At the end of May, Nynke Blömer, a Cambridge University PhD student (and BBKA News desk editor) and her supervisor, asked CBKA Committee for support of a further citizen science project, for beekeepers to participate in a project involving honeybees and bumblebees at their apiaries. The

research focusses on how bees use the landscape, using both honeybees and bumblebees as study species. The aim was twofold: to study the impact of heavy metals in the soil on behaviour, fitness, and bioaccumulation of bees; and to study whether honeybees and bumblebees forage on the same plant species, whether the density of honeybee colonies changes the foraging behaviour of bumblebees, and how this impacts their reproductive output (e.g. how many queens and drones are produced by the bumblebees). The project took place over the summer months, from June to September 2023, and possibly will continue in the summers of 2024 and 2025. The Impington Bedlam apiary became involved in June.

With sadness and condolences, we learned in June of the death of Wendy Ackers, former secretary of CBKA and apiary manager from 1979-1986.

In July, Jonathan Baynes, a Committee member and former seasonal bee inspector, ran a successful BBKA Basic Assessment preparation course over 4 weeks for 10 beekeepers at his apiary ahead of their exam in August; thank you Jonathan. At the July Committee meeting, Stephen reported that CBKA honey was selling well at events, at £7 per 1lb (454g) jar, and that Derek Blatch was jarring honey for future events. The CBKA Honey Show was held in early August, at a rather wet and cold Quy showground. The weather was in stark contrast to the heatwave that we had experienced the previous year. There were 171 entries and the standard set by the judges was very high indeed, so all those with prizes and commendations should be proud of themselves, and their bees! Thanks to our new honey show secretary, Sandra Chapman, who took over from Hamish Symington. Also to the judges, and to the volunteers at the show: Pam Fearn, Peter Bates, Peter Dawson, Richard Strugnell and Steve Kilmurray. My apologies if I have omitted any additional volunteers!

The 2023 season turned out to be poor for me, as I had reduced down from 7 to 2 hives in my garden. One became queenless, which I requeened with a generously donated virgin queen who then failed to mate and instead happily wandered around the hive. The queen in the second hive also failed! I started again with a kindly donated nucleus from my beekeeping friend Penny and later a very small caste swarm via Philip. It just goes to show that bees always surprise us, and I am concerned that speaking to other beekeepers and reading relevant bee news that queens failing is now becoming increasingly common.

July was a month that I will remember for the increased reporting of Asian

hornet (AH) sightings in the South of England. This was accompanied by a ramping up of BBKA alerts and educational resources, encouraging each association to beef-up its AH awareness teams. In September, the BBKA promoted the AH week and several of us wrote letters to our local MP concerning the AH and asking for funding of an effective extermination programme. As we ended November, Andrew Durham delivered a well-attended talk to CBKA at Storey's Field Centre, and Committee members have sought volunteers to be sentinel sites across Cambridgeshire. This was a year of an unprecedented number of AH sightings, with only one single confirmed nest in 2022 compared to 72 nests in 2023 in 56 locations. There were several verified sightings at the end of June with the first nest destroyed 5th July, and the last on 15th November.

On a more positive note, December brought the CBKA annual dinner and awards ceremony which I organised and hosted at the Park Restaurant, Cambridge Regional College. This was a wonderful evening of celebration, with good food and equally delightful company. I was very pleased and proud to present the awards to all the silverware winners from our honey show, as well as the honorary membership medals to Doug Brown and Liz Cox. Thanks again here to Sandra Chapman for her much appreciated support on the evening.

I conclude my final report as I did last year with my profound thanks to all of those mentioned, especially the Committee, but also to all other volunteers not named individually. I have really appreciated their individual contributions and support in running the organisation. Martin Kendall continues to be our IT expert, web-master and membership secretary; he has made major contributions to our new CBKA website as well as to the online membership self-service system - thank you Martin. Thanks also to Peter Connor as treasurer and Peter Bates as newsletter editor. It is thanks to all of you who volunteer that we can hold the many CBKA activities, the apiaries, education, socials and talks programme. For those members who have not yet volunteered I strongly encourage you to do so. I wish you all the very best with your beekeeping this coming season and remember... beekeeping is like a game of chess, though playing against 'opponents' who don't play by anything more than general rules!

Dr J Paul Schofield

Membership Report

MOST MEMBERS RESPONDED to the automated encouragement by our membership system and renewed their membership by the end of the year. Below are the figures for 2023 showing how many members were registered as at closing of the membership year, at 31 December 2023. The figures for 2022 are also shown for information.

Year	Ordinary	Partner	Associate	Non-UK Associate	Honorary	Junior	Total
2022	213	56	94	n/a	4	n/a	367
2023	417	49	133	36	9	0	644

During 2023 the CBKA Junior membership categories were replaced with the BBKA Junior membership types, at £4.50 per child. This represents a 50% discount for our members. In addition, the non-UK Associate members are now automatically assigned with their own distinct “Non-UK Associate Member” category when joining. All Associate memberships are now on a 12-month basis from the date of joining. This offers those attracted to enjoying our online Talks recordings to become Associate members at any time without the limitations of a calendar year membership. All other membership categories continue as before, because they need to be tied to the BBKA insurance policy, which is on a calendar year basis.

The BBKA subscription rates continue at £21 + £2 basic BDI for Ordinary members. The CBKA website continues to process all memberships automatically. PayPal-based payments are no longer available and our online payments are now all based on the Stripe payment processing system, which allows payment by credit/debit card.

The Forum facility in the website has been removed due to lack of interest. The WhatsApp group offering is under review, as there is little usage. Our Facebook group continues on a strictly for members only basis.

Martin Kendall

Wandlebury Apiary Report

THE 9 COLONIES at the end of 2022 were able to come through the winter in differing strengths, which did not appear to be dependent on the type of hive they were in: National (1 as a brood and a half, with a super on), Dartington or 14 x 12. The winter was uneventful and I was able to treat the hives with oxalic acid (by the trickle method) in early 2023. The varroa control was again successful, to such a degree that it proved difficult to find mites to show beginners during their practical sessions. The hives have again been given a treatment of oxalic acid in early 2024 in an attempt to ensure the colonies start the year with as few varroa mites as possible.

In the early spring of 2023, the colonies were fed fondant icing as an insurance against starvation, and later Candipolline Gold as a pollen substitute to boost brood production. This helped keep the colonies alive, but the weather in early 2023 turned cold for a period of time when the hives ought to have been expanding, so they did not expand as much as in previous years. The cold weather also had the effect of preventing inspections, so when the warm weather did arrive there was an urge for the hives to swarm due to being prevented from flying for a while. Swarm prevention and/or swarm control had to be implemented, which resulted in 3 splits and 1 Snelgrove manipulation needing to be undertaken in May. The poor weather or other factors resulted in very poor mating of the new queens and either a subsequent failure of the splits or an attempt for them to try and produce a replacement queen.

We again used the apiary for the practical sessions for some of the 2023 beginners. However, the restriction on swarms being brought to Wandlebury (to prevent the spread of European Foul Brood [EFB]) meant that I had to use a CBKA colony to provide a stocked observation hive for use by the education team of wardens at Wandlebury.

The Dartington hive was taken out of use during 2023, because one of the legs was rotting, and its stocked frames were moved into a 14 x 12 brood box. I ended 2023 with 8 hives: 6 in National brood boxes (1 as brood and a half), but 1 was weak and has subsequently failed, and 2 in 14 x 12 brood boxes. EFB was again found to the south of Cambridge, which resulted in 3 notifications of it being found within 3 km of the apiary, but I am pleased to report no EFB

was found at Wandlebury. The hives collected ivy nectar during the autumn, but they were still fed syrup, treated against varroa with Apiguard, and given mouse guards and woodpecker protection before winter. Fondant icing has already been applied to the hives in January 2024 and it is intended to use Candipolline again in the spring of 2024.

The apiary had a very productive year, with the 7 productive hives yielding 399 lb of honey that will be sold at events in 2024 to supplement the CBKA's bank account. It was obviously also a very good year for wasps, as I found a total of 49 queen wasps hibernating under the rooves of the hives or in the observation hive when I was preparing them for winter woodpecker protection. Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF), our landlords, undertook more work around the shed and the apiary during early 2023 and additional felling of diseased (ash die back) or non-native trees is anticipated in 2024.

If you if you want to be involved to help with the Wandlebury apiary, please contact me. I again intend to use the time for a combination of sharing information and spreading the load of looking after the CBKA interests at Wandlebury, whilst enjoying beekeeping.

Stephen Poyser, Wandlebury Apiary Manager

Impington Apiary Report

THERE WERE 12 colonies treated with Apiguard and fed with syrup in August and September 2022. Two were found to have died when hives were opened to trickle oxalic acid on 17 December. In 2023, candy blocks were given to hives that felt light after hefting and a 500 g pack of Candipolline put on each in February. At the first full inspection on 17 April, there were eight viable colonies with laying queens, so four colonies had been lost since September. By mid-May, colonies had built up and some had started to produce queen cells. Queens were removed from some colonies to make up nucs, while others were artificially swarmed, and there were 15 viable CBKA colonies at the apiary at the end of August.

CBKA members volunteered to come to two frame-building parties on the 11 and 18 February. This was a huge help in making brood frames to replace old ones, and to rewax about 200 super frames. Both sessions were fun, with plenty of bee-chat, and the apiary managers are very grateful to those who helped.

Honey yield is not the main purpose of the training apiary, but a good yield is always satisfying. The neighbouring farm did not grow any fruit in 2023 and this, together with the weather, winter losses and training commitments, affected the yield. Of the 15 hives in the apiary on 29 August 2023, nine had extractable honey in the supers, giving a total yield of 210 lb, which was slightly below the apiary 10-year average of 253 lb. Frames were numbered and extracted using a spinner or with the CBKA Apimelter. The frames will be used on the same hives again, where possible, to reduce the risk of spreading disease.

European Foul Brood (EFB) had been found in the apiary in 2019, 2020 and again in the spring of 2022, but none at an inspection later that year. We were pleased that no EFB was found by Jack Silberrad, the Seasonal Bee Inspector, on 27 April 2023, so the apiary could be used for training new beekeepers. Evening practical training started in mid-May and 17 new beekeepers attended at least one of three sessions in two groups. Thanks go to Milly Farouki, Tomáš Deingruber and Anne-Marie Joswig for enthusiastically helping as trainers at these six sessions.

To reduce the chance of spreading EFB to the apiary, any swarms collected in the local area are now placed in an isolation apiary at a different site on the Bedlam farm, about 600m away from the main apiary. After assessing the

colonies for laying queens and checking for disease over a few weeks they can then be passed on to new beekeepers.

The apiary was used on 29 July and 26 August to assess beekeepers for their Basic Assessment by Bill Block. Thanks to Lal Goodfellow and Jonathan Baynes for supporting Bill at these assessments. Colonies from the apiary were also used to make up observation hives for the Honey Show at the Cambridge Country Show at Quy, and the Stourbridge Fair.

Bill Block was interested in developing queen rearing skills in the apiary and producing queens to enable this skill to be practiced by the membership. He identified the Punched Cell method, as espoused by Roger Paterson, as an effective and accessible system. Bill and Peter Dawson had two sessions of this in June and July, when the apiary training sessions had finished. The technique was shown to be straight forward and effective, with some success. It was late in the season and a queen raising hive would need to be prepared for more queens to be raised. It is planned to practice this technique again in future.

There are three AgriSound hive monitoring stations at the Impington apiary. These enable the hive weight, temperature and humidity to be recorded remotely. There have been a few technical issues with the system, but hopefully these have now been resolved. Support frames have also been developed and made by Peter to keep the hives level and stable while they are being inspected by old and new beekeepers.

In early September, small colonies were combined with larger ones to give 13 colonies at the main apiary. To control varroa, three were treated using Apiguard and the other 10 using Apivar strips; light colonies were fed with syrup. In mid-September, ten colonies were fed using 6 kg blocks of fondant placed on a queen excluder directly above the brood frames as a trial. Further fondant was fed when the first blocks had been taken down by the bees. This is a system advocated by Dave Evans (The Apiarist blog) and could have several advantages at Impington. Primarily, it would reduce the work involved in buying and making syrup, feeding syrup, cleaning feeders and the number of travel journeys involved in syrup feeding at a busy time of year when honey is being extracted and frames cleaned. It is also thought to aid the production of winter brood, and we look forward to assessing the success of this trial. All colonies were treated with oxalic acid (Apibioxal) to control varroa on 6 December, after a cold spell.

Following the presentation to the CBKA in May, Impington apiary

participated in a Citizen Science project run by Nynke Blömer and Dr Sarah Scott of the Agroecology Unit of the Dept of Zoology at Cambridge University. This was the first year of this study and we hope to participate again in 2024. Although the Impington apiary was just outside the target area, we contributed to the projects involved in assessing whether honeybees and bumblebees forage on the same species and whether the density of honeybee colonies changes the foraging behaviour of bumblebees.

The apiary managers would like to thank everyone who has helped throughout the year. Many thanks go to Milly Farouki who has helped with regular inspections and maintenance work during the season. The association remains very grateful to Chivers Farms Ltd for their continued support of the CBKA apiary at Bedlam Farm, Impington.

Roy Cross, Bill Block and Peter Dawson (Apiary Managers)

Bill Block

I STARTED BEEKEEPING in 2005 and, as Bill lived in the same road, he volunteered to be my Bee Buddy and mentor. He helped me build my first hive, and when he was notified of a local swarm, he encouraged me to go along with him to collect it as my first colony. From that time on we became great friends and he passed onto me his enthusiasm for beekeeping and his endless interest in bees.

Dr Bill Block worked for the British Antarctic Survey and joined the CBKA in 2003, when he attended the beginner's course. He already had a considerable knowledge of insects from his lifetime lecturing and studying arthropods, initially in Uganda and then for many years in the Antarctic. He was on the CBKA committee for several years from 2004, and was Vice Chairman from 2007 to 2009. He set up the Education and Training Group in 2006, to coordinate the continual training opportunities for members. These included the beginners and improvers courses, practical training at apiaries, supplying nucs for beginners, talks and study-courses for BBKA examinations.

Bill was a keen advocate of the CBKA. With his lecturing background he wrote many articles for the newsletter and yearbook. He gave many talks as part of the beginner's theory course, at association meetings, and to the general public, and spoke about bees on local radio. He wanted everyone

to participate in the CBKA, which he felt has so much to offer. He always entered the honey show and regularly won prizes.

He was a keen practical beekeeper, keeping hives at home and on the Chivers Farm at Impington. Bill volunteered in 2006 to help inspect hives at an association out-apiary in Histon. After the then apiary manager decided to suddenly leave, Bill was left to look after the apiary. He realised it was in a poor location and in 2007 moved it to Manor Farm, Impington. When a playschool opened nearby, the farm suggested the apiary move again to Bedlam Farm. The site was completely overgrown, but Bill saw the potential to set up the current training apiary. He encouraged others to help with the apiary and it soon expanded to 12-15 hives, with a good storage shed complete with solar panels. This enabled the apiary to be used for training beginners and improvers, holding more advanced Practical Apiary Meetings, producing nucs, and producing a fair amount of honey. He was still jointly managing the apiary in 2023, 17 years after he first offered to help.

Always keen to expand his own knowledge of bees and beekeeping, Bill studied for and gained the General Husbandry Certificate (GHC) in 2015. At the beginners practical sessions, he would always encourage new beekeepers to attend the Improvers course and take the Basic Assessment. His GHC, with further training, allowed him to examine candidates for the Basic Assessment exam, something he did for several years and was still doing in July and August 2023 when he was not feeling completely well.

When a monitoring system to measure hive weight, temperature and humidity was offered to the apiary in 2021 he was immediately interested and keen to learn about it. Bill installed the sensors, dealt with technical problems and was keen to start analysing the data to find out what was happening in a closed hive. Always wanting to learn more, over the past 3 years he was keen to try various queen rearing techniques and tried different methods with some success.

Bill showed that you can still be actively beekeeping and trying new ideas when you are 86. He always seemed happiest at the apiary where he could pass his knowledge and enthusiasm on to others or just sit with a cup of tea and share biscuits made by his wife May, while chatting about bees, natural history and life. He will be greatly missed by me and I'm sure many others in the association.

Roy Cross

Bourn Apiary Report

THE UNUSUALLY MILD autumn of 2022, followed by an almost overnight cold snap to -10C, caused problems for all our overwintering colonies. Just about all showed evidence of losses, with piles of dead bees outside the hive entrances, but thankfully all but one full colony and one nuc survived the winter. All colonies were treated with oxalic acid (dribble method) in early January, as an aid to reducing varroa, and all were given fondant icing (Tesco variety) and then regularly checked with fondant top-ups to guard against starvation. In early spring, once the outer plastic protection and mouse guards were removed, each colony received a pack of home-made pollen substitute, which always gives a boost and colonies increase in size very quickly. Unknowingly, this was added just prior to the prolonged wet spring of 2023, so as soon as the weather improved the bees were rearing to go and all our efforts were engaged on swarm control.

A Sunday in March was earmarked for frame building with 7 volunteers working very hard, not just making frames, but also tidying the site and repainting the shed. Food was provided by Val Bell, with hot drinks available courtesy of Mark Taylor.

Our regular NBU inspection confirmed the Bourn Apiary remains European Foul Brood (EFB) free, but with EFB getting ever closer and cases reported in Barton in 2023, we must all remain vigilant. Biosecurity remains a priority, with nitrile over-gloves provided and all helpers and visitors to the apiary asked to wear clean newly-washed bee-suits and not to bring unsterilised equipment onto the site.

Again this year, the apiary hosted beginners for their practical sessions. Four colonies were made available for course participants to experience hands-on inspections over three Wednesday evenings in May. My thanks go to those who gave their time to assist with the preparation and help on the evenings. As well as colony management, emphasis was given to biosecurity, disease management and swarm collection. An open invitation was given to all who attended the course to continue visiting the Bourn apiary, and I'm pleased to say a number continued to come along and proved to be valued members of the Tuesday evening team.

Queen mating was somewhat erratic this year due to the poor weather. Prolonged wet spells managed to coincide with windows of opportunity for

mating flights on a good few occasions. However, we managed to provide nucs to all beginners requiring them, with some of our new members being able to make up their own nucs, and what a pleasure it was to see the joy on their faces when eggs were spotted for the first time in their own nucs.

We had a very small summer crop of honey due to the wet July and August; the summer crop would usually be left on the colonies to assist with autumn/winter stores, so a decision was made to leave at least one super on every hive for a few more weeks. The sun finally came out and gave us a September heatwave. The bees loved it and over the first two weeks of September the nectar flowed. Rather than our usual seasons, we seem to be getting more and more extreme weather events. A main crop in July and boxes off by mid-August is probably going to become more rare. I think the time has come where we have to be more flexible and learn to work with the weather we experience.

Early autumn varroa treatment was carried out with Apivar on all the colonies, with full colonies receiving two strips each and nucs receiving one strip each. Rather than use our old plastic bags as woodpecker protection, Mark Taylor managed to source some builders plastic damp-proof membrane 18 in wide from a local building suppliers. This proved to be a perfect size and made the cutting and stapling of plastic to the outside of the hives very quick and easy. No Apikel was purchased this year and a home-made feed of sugar and water with the addition of a very small amount of thymol was given to all colonies, as required, during autumn. Once again, a mild autumn has seen the bees active on most days. The liquid feed was changed early in November to fondant (purchased from Tesco) and will be regularly checked throughout the winter as insurance against starvation.

The traditional time to give the winter oxalic acid varroa treatment is early in the new year, but with our warming climate and warmer winters comes a dilemma, because ideally the treatment requires the queen to be dormant, with no open brood in the hive. The continued winter activity we see within hives suggests our queens are continuing to produce brood almost without a break year on year. Unless we have a prolonged cold spell, the Bourn bees will not receive oxalic acid treatment this time. Next year we will review our varroa treatment and decide if it's practical to use the oxalic acid much earlier, possibly in November or early December.

My thanks to all who have helped throughout the season and to the new beekeepers who continued to attend our Tuesday evenings and whose

attendances and help proved invaluable. Finally, very special thanks must go to Mark Taylor who, in early May, was admitted into Papworth for major heart surgery. Even from his hospital bed he kept the WhatsApp group up to date and within a few weeks of his discharge from Papworth he was back at the apiary on light duties. Now the tables are turned, I will be on light duties for the first part of the new season as I will be having a hip replacement operation in February.

Colin Bell (Bourn Apiary Manager)

CBKA Equipment Use

RECORDED BORROWING OF CBKA equipment from the Wandlebury bee-shed for the period 2015 to 2023 is shown below. It is not a comprehensive list, because some items were borrowed without being signed out and some items were out for many months as a single booking (e.g. virtual hive for events and several series of talks, as in previous years). The records indicate that the yield of honey in 2023 was less than many (if not all) recent years, which is probably due to the unusual weather we had in the spring when colonies were trying to build up.

	2015	2016	2107	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Extractors	85	79	106	79	65	85	60	73	58
Pratley trays	34	39	52	39	35	38	22	35	26
Honey tanks	13	24	25	18	13	17	15	21	23
Wax melter	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	4
Easi-steam	0	0	10	1	4	1	2	9	3
Virtual hive	2	7	9	5	7	0	1	5	8
Creamer-paddle	-	-	-	-	2	1	0	2	1
Candle moulds	-	-	-	-	3	2	0	2	4
Apimelter	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	7	4

In addition to the items above, do not forget that the CBKA have filters, an electric uncapping knife, an uncapping tray and wax processing equipment, including solar wax extractors that can be borrowed if required. Please return any equipment in a state you would want to find it and return it as soon

as possible after use. A reminder that when you borrow a Pratley tray, you ensure you take the correct electric lead, because there are 3 different types; you will have had a wasted journey if you take the wrong lead for the tray you have borrowed. Do not move a Pratley tray when it is full of hot water because you run the risk of fracturing the soldered seams on the tray and this is a problem for us to repair. When returning a Pratley tray, please ensure the electric lead, wax filter and wooden uncapping board are also returned.

If you find, when you are using an item, that something is broken, or it breaks whilst you are using it, please inform us so that repairs can be implemented before somebody else takes the item home only to find they have had a wasted journey.

The access track to the bee-shed has a gate and chain, with a combination padlock fitted by the CBKA to the Wandlebury Wardens' padlock. Please **link our padlock through the chain and the Wardens' padlock** when leaving the site, to enable both the CBKA members and the Wardens to unlock and use the track. The bee-shed is fitted with movement sensors to switch the lights on and off; therefore, you do not need to find a switch to turn the lights off when you leave, but do please make sure you lock the bee-shed door.

In order to borrow equipment, you will require both the gate padlock code and the new door code; the door code will be changed again in early 2024. In an attempt to ensure only members of the CBKA use the equipment, when you contact us for the codes you may be kept waiting on the phone – even though we may recognise your name. This is while your 2024 membership details are checked. When you have been given the codes to access the bee-shed, please **do not pass the codes to others**, otherwise we have no knowledge of who has borrowed equipment or even if they are still members of the CBKA.

Please keep borrowed equipment for as short a time as possible (7 days as a maximum) because it is inconsiderate to other CBKA members for anyone to have equipment out for a long period of time. Please remember in 2024 to be considerate of other members if you borrow any equipment.

Please ensure you book the equipment out and back in when appropriate, putting details on the note-pad hanging adjacent to the extractors, and please write clearly and legibly because we need to know who you are.

Bill Clark and Stephen Poyser (Wandlebury Equipment Coordinators)

The Inspector's Brief

WITH SPRING RAPIDLY approaching, the inspectorate is looking ahead keenly to a new season and new challenges. In 2023, we witnessed an unprecedented incursion of Asian hornets, with more than 70 nests tracked down and destroyed. Inspectors spent weeks and sometimes months at a time all over the South Coast and across to Cornwall, sacrificing management of their personal lives and hives for eradication of this invasive pest. The National Bee Unit would like to thank all those who continue to support our work, and Cambridgeshire's Asian Hornet Team, led by my predecessor Jonathan Baynes, will play a key role in monitoring and reporting should any sightings occur.

Briefly, as I am sure we are all aware, Asian hornets are discernible by a black body, yellow legs, and a yellow band on the fourth segment of the abdomen; it is smaller than the European hornet, which is itself akin to a large wasp. Often spotted feeding on ivy flowers late in the season, if on the wing the Asian hornet is broadly bullet shaped and dark in colour. A simple aid memoire: "if it's yellow it's a euro; if it's black it's worth a snap!" Whilst a specimen alive or dead is optimal, the safest and easiest option is to photograph and report via the Asian Hornet Watch app. Equally, I would caution for those trapping that it behoves us to ensure we check for and free any by-catch in our traps. The ecological risk from thousands of unmonitored traps destroying the local insect population is exactly the damage we are all working to avoid by preventing Asian hornets becoming established.

Despite numerous projects running concurrently with Track and Trace activities, disease inspections continued apace in 2023, with numerous cases of European Foulbrood (EFB) found in satellite towns and villages about Cambridgeshire, as well as within the city limits. Owing to the disruption caused by changing priorities, it is difficult to ascertain with confidence the rise or fall in case numbers, but a high percentage of targeted inspections did turn up positive results. Beekeepers with high numbers of infections in the preceding year (2022) continue to contribute a large proportion of the area's disease burden. I have personally heard the phrase 'EFB-Free area' or similar, and would caution that an absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. This is especially true for the slow-burning and often symptomless initial stages of strain 39 (formerly 37) unique to Cambridgeshire.

I always welcome contact from beekeepers, especially where I can often

reply within 24 h, providing relief for misidentified and less serious disorders, or even just mouldy pollen. I would happily receive and relieve 1000 emails with pictures of pollen to identify a single case of EFB. I can be reached by email at **Jack.Silberrad@APHA.GOV.UK** or by text, WhatsApp and telephone on **07776 165869**. Bee Disease Insurance continues to function extremely well, with insured beekeepers receiving compensation within days of treatment, most of which involved shook-swarms with comparatively few destructions. If you know somebody who has gone through this process, please speak to them if they are willing, and I am sure they will echo the positive experiences of other beekeepers I have worked with; otherwise, see this summarised in the post-seminar interview on YouTube – search “Honey Show Bee Craft” and my name.

In general, the best defence is good apiary hygiene – wash suits, boots, and the bellows on our smokers – see where your fingers sit and observe the propolis! I can only assume many of us have taken ‘99p or EFB!’ and bought lots of soda; at £2 per kilo it will still make 5 litres of cleaning solution, used in 1 litre portions for hive tool and glove cleaning with a ball of steel wool. Next is maintaining strong healthy colonies; treat for varroa, whether you use acaracides or integrated pest management. *V. destructor* is indisputably the leading cause of colony collapse and failure during the post-winter period of variable temperatures globally. Finally, when giving collected swarms the best start in their new hive remember: **House swarms on fresh undrawn foundation only:** Drawn comb allows immediate deposition of honey from the mother colony – and potentially disease from therein! **Feed a swarm only after 3 days, if at all:** The swarm will use the honey-crop it arrived with for energy, maximising clearance of disease; feeding is unnecessary during a flow. **Treat your swarms for varroa mites:** Swarms carry about half the varroa mites of the mother colony; when comb-drawing indicates a settled swarm (after ~7 days) consider a varroa treatment. Oxalic acid-based treatments during this period with open brood would be very effective.

With all the hard work and affirmative action from beekeepers in hives with their stock, and the field for Asian hornets, I am confident we can continue to operate effectively for the betterment of bee health locally and nationally. I very much look forward to working with Cambridgeshire’s beekeepers in 2024.

Jack Silberrad – Seasonal Bee Inspector

Beginners Course Report

2023 BEGINNERS: AFTER the cancellation of our bookings for the Rex Freeman Hall by Chesterton Community College in late December 2022, we eventually negotiated with them to hold our course on a series of Saturdays in the Dining Hall (as a result of our usual venue being already booked by another group). Although not ideal the Dining Hall provided more positive points than any other venue we investigated in early 2023. There is no doubt the change of day and time, together with the delay in not being able to commence the Course until very late February, resulted in a significant withdrawal of participants on the course.

We ran it from 25 February for 4 Saturdays, with 4 hours of lectures on each day, which was not ideal but it did provide some positive results: we only needed to attend for 4 days not 8 evenings, we travelled in daylight and not on cold, wet evenings, and we only had to transport all the props 4 times instead of 8. We had 48 paid-up attendees and the theory element of the course was duly completed well before we were able to undertake the practical meetings.

European Foul Brood (EFB) again proved to be a problem at Impington, so the practical sessions were undertaken at Wandlebury and Bourn. However, the cold and wet weather also proved to be a problem, with some practical sessions needing to be reorganised as it would have been cruel to open the hives (for the bees, tutors and beginners) on some of the allocated evenings. The provision of bees for the beginners was again an issue, with the threat of EFB resulting in fewer swarms being collected or provided, and the weather resulting in splits not having properly mated queens to ensure the nuc would survive. Yet again, even though we only guarantee 3 practical sessions, they proved to be essential for the beginners to understand a significant amount of the theory they had received from their books and in the “classroom”.

The Autumn preparation lecture was provided in September, and the final lecture for the course was provided on 13 January 2024. Many thanks to all of the members who helped with the course, IT experts, administrators, PA organisers, speakers, apiary beekeepers, mentors and providers of bees (plus any others I may have omitted); without a team effort to provide the course it would not happen and Cambridgeshire would be a poorer place for the lack of future beekeepers.

2024 Beginners: The “Introductory Session” was held in September 2023, where prospective beekeepers were given information to enable them to decide if beekeeping was for them. Subsequently, 47 have enrolled, with an expectation that we will have just over 50 attendees when the course starts in February. We will certainly be wanting help in providing nucs of bees for the beginners and giving both time and expertise with the practical sessions, so please let me know if you are willing to be involved in any of these.

We will also be trying to link every beginner with a mentor / bee-buddy so they have a point of contact for a conversation or to offer help with any problem. Again therefore, please offer to help if you possibly can so that we can put the beginners together with someone in their area.

Stephen Poyser, Beginners Course Coordinator

Events Coordinator Report

THE CBKA ATTENDED 6 Fairs and Shows during 2023, where our members experienced keen interest and enthusiasm to learn about bees and beekeeping from the visitors. Reach Fair, Harston Open Gardens, the Honey Show at Stow cum Quy (2 days), Stourbridge Fair, Gransden Show and Darwin Garden Centre resulted in extremely good honey sales with the majority of visitors coming to the CBKA stand then buying honey. Tasting was reintroduced post-covid and proved as popular as ever. There were still cash sales, but card sales were predominant on the newer Zettle handset that does not require connecting to a mobile phone. This proved an easier option and was welcomed by show helpers.

Further innovations this year have included new poster board displays, written and produced by Hamish Symington. I and many other helpers found the concertina gazebo heavy and an effort to erect, so a 4m x 6m marquee has been purchased and proves much lighter in weight to transport and needs less people to put it up. The larger gazebo was still used at Reach Fair and Pam and Peter brought their smaller gazebo to Harston Gardens. The CBKA stand sign became worn and so our latest purchase is of a Flag Banner with an excellent design of bees and CBKA logo, which will be visible across a show ground to attract more visitors. Do look out for this at shows in 2024.

The Observation Hive is always a huge draw for the general public, and thanks go to those CBKA Members – Jonathan Baynes, Peter Dawson and Stephen Poyser – who provided one for every show this year. There were also more members jarring the CBKA honey stored in 30lb tubs. This time-consuming task used to be solely provided by Stephen Poyser, and grateful thanks go to Derek Blatch and Susan Wilkie for sharing this work load.

The sales at events in 2023 are shown below ,with the bulk of the honey again coming from the CBKA apiaries at Wandlebury and Impington:

1 lb liquid honey	=	284
1 lb set honey	=	87
3/4 lb liquid honey	=	122
3/4 lb set honey	=	71
1/2 lb liquid honey	=	162
Cut comb	=	35
Wax blocks	=	53

Although the primary aim of attending events is to promote beekeeping and educate the public on bees, there is no doubt people really enjoy seeing some bees and talking to people who know about it. We beekeepers also learn from the visitors about what concerns them in respect of climate, nature, wildlife and changes to cropping and gardens.

None of these events would work without our loyal team of volunteer event helpers. Grateful thanks go to Louise Bailey, Peter Bates, Jonathan Baynes, Hazel Bickle, Derek Blatch, Benoit Brard, Peter Dawson, Julie Dore, Pam Fearn, Jaquie Finn, Graham Jarrett, Sally Knowles, Stephen Poyser, Philip Turon and Susan Wilkie, plus the numerous helpers organised by Pam Fearn to run the Quay Honey Show. Reach Fair on Bank Holiday Monday 6 May 2024 is already booked, together with Quay and Gransden later in the year, and a full list of Shows in 2024 will be circulated soon.

Hazel Bickle and Stephen Poyser

Exam Secretary's Report

LAST SUMMER WE had 10 candidates attend training provided by Jonathan Baynes, assisted by Michael Wilton-Cox, to prepare them to take their BBKA Basic Assessments. The examiner was our wonderful Bill Block, who sadly passed away later in the year. The CBKA owes so much to Bill who had encouraged, supported and assessed so many of our members over the years and he will be greatly missed.

Many congratulations to all the candidates who passed their Basic Assessment.

- Graham Jarrett, John Moore – Distinction,
- Caitlin Jarrett, James Tysome, Sally Knowles, Nicola Meidlinger – Credit
- Ian Mackenzie, Grant Baker – Pass

Congratulations also to the candidates who passed Module exams. James Tysome received a Credit in Module 1 and Alison Goodfellow received a Credit in Module 3.

Finally, we must give very special congratulations to Ann Mahaffey who has passed her General Husbandry Practical Assessment.

Alison Goodfellow

External Talks

I START BY thanking all of those of you who have spoken in 2023, either via the outreach programme or on a personal contact basis. As I said in last year's report, the primary purpose of CBKA is to "*promote and further the craft of beekeeping*". At the time of writing, we are in the CBKA annual membership renewal period and I am pleased that we have 20 volunteers so far who have indicated that they are willing to give talks in 2024. I would be delighted if any members reading this would contact me directly if they wish to volunteer, via either outreach@cbkja.org.uk or jpaul.schofield@cbka.org.uk.

I have prepared PowerPoint slide sets suitable for either young children or older people. CBKA also has a lightweight computer projector that I can arrange to be collected by a speaker. For young children it is often better not to use slides, but rather engage their interest via a 'show-and-tell', e.g. dressed in a bee-suit, and take along a smoker, hive tool, a jar of honey, beeswax comb, etc. For older children I often take along a virtual hive. I particularly like the CBKA-owned WBC model hive as it is attractive, small and more portable than the other CBKA virtual National hives. With apologies for any omissions, I have recorded below those talks that I'm aware of that were given in 2023:

Julie Dore gave talks at Trumpington Primary School and Gamlingay Primary School. She added: "I did a talk in May (twice to 2 reception groups) at Trumpington Primary school. I took some of my equipment and the virtual hive, as they were so young and I thought a slide presentation might be too much. They were very interested and loved looking at the hive. It must have gone down well because I have recently received a request from the teacher to do it again this coming May! I also gave a talk in June (a repeat request) at Gamlingay Primary School. This was to older children, so I gave a slideshow and took my equipment to show them. They were very knowledgeable about bees already, which was very reassuring to find out, and very passionate about providing them with flowers to feed on. I also had some interesting questions such as which came first, bees or wasps?" [Note: from CBKA One Day meeting talk by Marin Anastasov – wasps came first!]

Rebecca Strivens gave outreach talks in May at Histon & Impington Park Primary school, one to each reception class. She commented: "I gave talks to two reception classes who were studying mini beasts. We talked about identifying honeybees and similar insects such as wasps, hornets and other

kinds of bees. We also talked about how we can help bees by planting flowering plants that have small flowers, not using poisons, etc. We also talked about what bees forage for and how bees communicate. They were both lovely sessions!” Rebecca also gave a beekeeping talk to a day-centre for the elderly, arranged through personal contacts.

Richard Strugnell delivered 2 talks and explains: “At Keddington WI, there was an audience of about 25. As well as including an introduction to bees and beekeeping, this talk also included a section on notable women beekeepers which was well received. At Keddington Men’s Breakfast Club, held at Keddington Village Hall, there were about 20 people in attendance. This talk covered an introduction to bees and beekeeping, as well as the history of humanity’s connection with bees. There was a general interest in adulteration of honey, I think because of recent press reports.”

Ralph Bayley gave a talk to years 5 and 6 pupils at Heritage School, Cambridge.

Bill Block gave an outreach talk in late June to East Chesterton WI.

Maggie Gould delivered one presentation on Beekeeping to ‘Women of Orwell’, which is a village society with a membership of around 60 and regularly has 30-40 (mainly female) attendees. She explained: “I think there were about 30 on the night I presented, although I didn’t count! I took a beehive in with me, and had a presentation (mostly pictures) to support the talk. The presentation was entitled ‘beekeeping through the seasons’ and I took the audience through the basic activities of both bees and the beekeeper throughout the year. I also covered ‘bee friendly planting’ as many of those in the audience were interested in learning what they could do to help support bees in the village - even if they didn’t keep bees themselves.”

Lastly, I personally gave talks to all ages in 2023, ranging from reception class children, all the way through to retired groups. I have ordered these by month (it was a busy May!): February, Earith WI; March, St Phillips Primary School, Cambridge; May, St Ive’s Public library ‘Engage Talk’, Somersham Primary School, Swaffham Prior Primary School, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School, Brook Primary School Histon, and Downham Primary School; October, Cambridge Soroptimists.

Thank you again to all of those mentioned, and also those that I am either unaware of or I may have forgotten. The talks continue to demonstrate that we are fulfilling our primary purpose about promoting beekeeping!

Paul Schofield (Outreach Co-ordinator)

Talks programme

THE LAST YEAR saw the continuation of the inspiring programme of talks hosted by the CBKA online via zoom. Led by Sally Knowles, the talks covered a wide range of topics, from practical seasonal bee management to cutting edge research into disease and resistance. By taking the talks programme online, Sally and the working party have transformed it, bringing together an international line-up of speakers and audience of beekeepers. In 2023, there were 14 talks, with an average of 250 people in each audience, which is an impressive statistic and an important contributor to meeting the CBKA's charitable aim of providing education about bees and beekeeping. A particular favourite of mine was Bob Binnie, speaking about the shocking level of toxicity of old comb.

There were also 3 in-person talks that brought a local audience to Storey's Field Centre, Eddington, to hear Ben Grieg speaking about local initiatives with On the Verge and Pesticide Free Cambridge, Fiona Dickson speaking about how to Present Honey for Show and to Sell, and Andrew Durham about the very real and imminent threat of the Asian Hornet.

The One Day Seminar, held in April at Wolfson College, Cambridge, brought together more than 65 people to hear Robert Pickard, Lynne Ingram, Clare Densley and Martin Hann, and Marin Anastasov. The latter was beamed in via zoom as Covid had struck again. However, it did not detract from a fascinating day, and there was another chance to view the film 'A thousand bees of my garden' by Martin Dohrn, which was a highlight for many.

The talks for the programme running in 2024 are being advertised via Mailchimp, and free registration is through Ticket Tailor rather than Eventbrite because of rising costs associated with the latter. So do make sure you open your Mailchimp bulletins to find out about the talks, and to add it to your contacts list so they don't end up in spam. The talks are also listed in advance on the CBKA website, so do check in from time to time.

All of the online talks are recorded and uploaded to the CBKA website and the YouTube Channel. This Online Talks Archive is a fantastic resource for CBKA members to listen to talks they missed or re-listen to past talks, when logged into the website.

Alison Turnbull

The CBKA Library

WE HAVE PURCHASED some interesting new books for the library this year:

“A lifetime of beekeeping mistakes” by Geoff Critchley. This is an amusing story about his life as a beekeeper and Bee Inspector, but also contains useful practical advice.

“Communication between honeybees: more than just a dance in the dark” by Jurgan Tautz. Exciting and surprising insights on communication between bees, with some stunning illustrations.

“The Wisdom of the hive” by Thomas Dyer Seeley. A book about the inner workings of the honeybee colony, describing and illustrating the results of years of experimental studies conducted by the author.

“Honeybee anatomy brought to life” and “Honeybee drones”. Two books by Graham Kingham who will be one of our speakers at this year’s One-Day Seminar.

We currently have over 200 books available to borrow by any CBKA members and the updated book list is on the website. The library includes many books that would be useful to anyone wishing to take any of the BBKA modules or the Basic Assessments, or to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge of any aspect of beekeeping. Please do get in touch with me if you have any questions about the book collection.

Alison Goodfellow

AGM Minutes

Minutes of the CBKA Annual General Meeting

Sunday 2 April 2023, 3 pm, at Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Avenue,
Cambridge CB1 1AA

Apologies and Chairman's Introduction –

Apologies were received from Colin Bell, Hazel Bickle, Jane Cornell, Peter Dawson, Sally Knowles, Andrew McKeown, Rebecca Strivens and Mark Taylor. The meeting was quorate with 32 voting members attending.

Chairman's report – Please see the 2022 CBKA Yearbook for all Committee reports. Paul thanked all the Committee members who had volunteered to help the Association. In the past year, in particular the Apiary Managers: Stephen Poyser (Wandlebury), Bill Block and Roy Cross (Impington) and Colin Bell (Bourn), noting that their contributions to the practical section of the Beginners' Course was highly valued. Feedback has indicated that instruction in the practical aspects of beekeeping is very important to course attendees.

Paul stressed the importance of volunteers overall to a charitable organisation, such as the CBKA, and regretted that so few members offer their time.

Toby Carter proposed adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on 2 April 2022 via Zoom. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report including presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 – Please see the Yearbook 2022 for a full report from the Treasurer. In summary, the higher cost of CBKA membership as a result of the BBKA's increasing annual fees has not had a significant effect on membership numbers. The Association's cash reserves remain high as it has not been possible to find a suitable site for a new apiary and centre for beekeeping excellence in Cambridgeshire

In response to a question from the floor, the Treasurer said that the CBKA has given £4000 for grants to research projects. These include an investigation into EFB. This is currently slightly delayed due to illness. The project aims to collect and analyse samples from swarms to determine the

level of EFB infection.

Due to a change in personnel, the current status of the EARS (Eastern Associations Research Studentships) project was not known.

Election of Trustees – In accordance with the CBKA's constitution, one third of the Association's trustees must step down at the AGM and, if so willing, offer themselves for re-election. This year, the following stepped down:

Secretary: Susan Wilkie – There are currently no nominations for the position of Secretary, so the post will remain open for the time being. The Chair thanked Susan for her contribution to the CBKA.

Treasurer: Peter Connor – Re-election proposed by Alison Goodfellow; seconded by Jonathan Baynes. Carried unanimously.

Election of up to Six Committee Members – In accordance with CBKA's constitution, the Association's non-trustee Committee Members must step down at the AGM and, if so willing, offer themselves for re-election. The following Committee Members had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: Jonathan Baynes, Alison Goodfellow, Sally Knowles, Stephen Poyser, Philip Turon. A further nomination was received from Alison Turnbull.

Jonathan Baynes, proposed by Philip Turon, seconded by Peter Connor
Alison Goodfellow, proposed by Peter Bates, seconded by Susan Wilkie
Philip Turon, proposed by Jonathan Baynes, seconded by Peter Bates
Stephen Poyser, proposed by Paul Schofield, seconded by Toby Carter
Alison Turnbull, proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded by Alison Goodfellow

Sally Knowles, proposed by Alison Goodfellow, seconded by Liz Cox
All carried by the meeting.

Election of President – Bill Clark, proposed by Stephen Poyser, seconded by Bill Block – carried by the meeting.

Honorary Members 2022 – John Rayner and David Abson were awarded Honorary Membership in 2022 for their many years of service to the CBKA. John was presented with his medal. David was not present.

Honorary Members 2023 – The Committee proposed conferring Honorary Membership on Bill Block, Doug Brown, Liz Cox and Ann Waldock. All have given the CBKA many years of dedicated service.

Bill Block has previously been on the Committee for many years (from 2004), Vice-Chair of the CBKA (2007, 2008, 2009) and has been a regular presenter on the Beginners' Course for many years, together with being the principal Manager of the Impington Apiary since 2007, with the assistance of other when required.

Doug Brown has made a significant contribution to the CBKA over many years in various Committee positions. He is an ex-Chair of the BBKA and has been the CBKA's delegate to the BBKA ADM for many years. He has also been leading the search for a new CBKA apiary.

Liz Cox was Membership Secretary for several years. Her insightful contributions to Committee meeting discussions were always greatly appreciated. She liaised with the Charity Commission and drew up the constitution for the 'new' CBKA as an Incorporated Charitable Organisation.

Ann Waldock ensured for many years that essential refreshments were always available at Talks and AGMs. She frequently volunteered to help at external events, including stewarding at the Honey Show for which she regularly provided numerous entries. She has also mentored and helped many new beekeepers.

The meeting voted that Honorary Membership be conferred on Bill, Doug, Liz and Ann.

AOB and questions for the Committee

Bill Block informed the meeting that the Busway route as currently proposed would run through Chivers Farm and Bedlam Farm, and consequently affect the CBKA's Impington Apiary. He had written to the consultation about this.

Liz Cox suggested lobbying the CBKA's Vice Presidents to see if they could offer any help with finding a site for a new apiary.

Liz Cox asked how the Committee proposed to ensure that the Secretary's duties were fulfilled until someone could be found to fill the post of Secretary. The Chair replied that the Committee would ensure that the Secretary's duties were fully covered by the other Committee members and that this approach, although not ideal, had been successful in the past.

Martin Harnor proposed that the Committee consider conferring Honorary Membership on Sally Knowles to recognise her work in bringing a successful online programme of Talks to the CBKA membership and beyond.

Those present were reminded that the CBKA One-Day Seminar 2023 would be taking place on 15 April and were encouraged to attend.

Susan appealed on behalf of the Events Coordinator, Hazel Bickle, for volunteers to help at the fairs and shows that the CBKA attends. Paul added that volunteers were also needed at the Honey Show in Quy in August and also mentioned that Sandra Chapman had taken over from Hamish Symington as Honey Show Secretary.

Meeting closed at 4.05 pm.

Treasurer's Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

I AM PLEASED to report that the Association has had another successful year, fulfilling its charitable objectives and generating a surplus of approximately £5,100 (compared to c. £3,000 in 2022) for future activities. It would be premature to suggest that life has returned to normal after Covid-19, but the Association is undertaking its full range of activities. That is only possible due to the efforts of the many volunteers who so generously offer their time and efforts to support our training activities and attend events. I would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Summary of income and expenditure for 2023: The following table summarises the income and expenditure in 2023, together with the equivalent figures for 2022, categorised by each source of income and its associated costs, with further detail on each set out in the narrative below the table.

Income: The CBKA derives its income from the following sources:

1. **Members' subscriptions and donations.** The largest source of the CBKA's income is members' subscriptions and donations. The total received from members, including amounts they paid for additional BDI insurance, BeeCraft magazine subscriptions and donations towards research, was c. £16,800, which was broadly the same as the previous year. Within that total, subscription income decreased by c. £900 compared to 2022, due to fewer Ordinary and Partner members this year. There was no increase in membership rates during 2023. Donations received from members with their subscriptions were, however, c. £450 higher than in 2022.

2. **Educational activities.** The second largest source of income for the CBKA is normally its educational activities, comprising: The Beginners' Course, The Improvers' Course, The One-Day Seminar, and other events, such as the Bee Disease Day, coach trips and the Annual Dinner

The Beginners' Course was once again a great success, although with fewer participants than 2022 as our usual venue, Chesterton Community College, cancelled our bookings with no notice and the change of dates for lectures from Wednesday evenings to Saturdays meant some prospective beekeepers were unable to join the course. As a result, income from the Beginners'

		2023			2022		
		Inc. £	Exp £.	Net £.	Inc. £	Exp. £	Net £
1	From / on behalf of members	16,756	(11,635)	5,121	16,723	(11,662)	5,061
2	Educational activities	7,083	(6,275)	808	6,398	(4,447)	1,951
3	The sale of products	5,124	(2,684)	2,440	4,576	(2,020)	2,556
4	Other income, including GiftAid	2,981	-	2,981	2,033	-	2,033
5	Running the Association's apiaries	-	(3,971)	(3,971)	-	(2,276)	(2,276)
6	Running the Association	-	(2,234)	(2,234)	-	(2,278)	(2,278)
7	Grants to research organisations	-	-	-	-	(4,000)	(4,000)
		31,944	(26,799)	5,145	29,730	(26,683)	3,047

Course was down £1,400 on 2023. However, we were able to hold our first One-Day Seminar since before Covid, which was very well attended with ticket sales of £3,200.

3. **The sale of products.** As Covid-19 restrictions eased, the Association has been able to attend more events, and it is reassuring to see the public's continuing demand for high quality honey when it is available. Income from the sale of honey, both on behalf of members and that from the Association's apiaries, increased by £1,400. Income in 2023 included £900 from the sale of wax to Thorne's.

4. **Other income.** Other income is primarily GiftAid, which remains a very welcome supplement to the Association's income. It effectively funds the day-to-day administrative costs of running the Association, enabling the Trustees to

channel all of the income from members and the Association's other activities into its charitable activities. Therefore, I encourage all members who are able to take advantage of GiftAid to do so on their membership renewal forms.

Expenditure: Expenditure during the year related to the following:

1. **On behalf of members.** The majority of the subscriptions paid by members is paid across to organisations such as the BBKA and BDI, or to BeeCraft if members purchase a subscription through the Association.
2. **Educational activities.** Expenditure on educational activities relates primarily to room hire and speakers' fees for the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses, and our talks programme, together with the cost of the One-Day Seminar and Annual Dinner. The cost of running this year's Beginners' Course was lower than last year following the changes forced on us by Chesterton Community College, (although this did not fully compensate for the reduced attendance). The cost of holding the One-Day Seminar was £3,300, while the cost of the Annual Dinner was £1,000.
3. **Products for sale.** Costs associated with the sale of products primarily comprise the purchase of honey from members, the cost of jars and labels for the Association's honey, and the cost of attending events, especially the Honey Show. The increase in these costs in 2023 was primarily due to the increased sale of members' honey in 2023.
4. **Running the Association's apiaries.** The total cost of running the Association's apiaries at Bourn, Impington and Wandlebury, was broadly the same as 2022. The Association's apiary managers and their teams do a wonderful job of managing the apiaries and supporting the teaching and training that we do. I would like to thank them all for their hard work once again in 2023.

In addition, the Association invested £1,700 in new equipment, including a new gazebo, banner and display cases for use at events, a new projector, and various recent publications for the Association library. There had been no equivalent expenditure in 2022.
6. **Running the Association.** A significant proportion of the costs of running the Association are printing and postage, including this Yearbook. These have been falling for a number of years as communication has moved online – with a corresponding increase in website and related costs.

As noted above, GiftAid currently funds these activities, and the Trustees constantly seek to minimise the administrative costs of the Association. However, inflation has increased the vast majority of our costs as it has for so many others.

7. Research grants. Last year the Association donated £4,000 to Newcastle University to fund specific research on EFB, which continues to impact many members around Cambridge. The Trustees did not receive any suitable applications for research funding in 2023; the Association has contributed to the funding of a specific PhD student in conjunction with other local associations as part of the Eastern Associations Research Studentship scheme for a number of years, but the individual expected to start their PhD this year has temporarily deferred the start of their course. We hope to resume funding honeybee-related research later this year.

Reserves: The surplus for the year has increased the Association's reserves to c. £84,000. The majority of the Association's assets are held in cash, and the closing cash balance was c. £83,000. The Trustee's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to protect the Association from potential reductions in its future income, whilst also generating the initial funding that would be required to establish a centre of excellence for beekeeping in the Cambridge area. The level of reserves is reviewed regularly by the Trustees to ensure that they are adequate, but not excessive, for the Association's current and forecast activities, whilst noting that the costs of a centre of excellence cannot be estimated reliably until a suitable location has been identified and additional funding may be required in future to realise this longer-term ambition.

Outlook for 2024: The Trustees expect the recent level of income to be maintained, because the number of members is expected to be consistent with 2023 and we plan to run the same courses and events as we did in 2023. However, costs are expected to increase as inflation impacts all parts of the economy, and the Trustees intend to invest in equipment to help tackle the increasingly imminent threat of the Asian Hornet. The Trustees therefore expect a more modest surplus, if any, for 2024 as a whole. The Association is fortunate that it has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

Peter Connor, CBKA Treasurer

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Apiary Manager (Bourn):
Colin Bell 01480 880665; *colingb50@gmail.com*

Asian Hornet Coordinator:
Lesley Fletcher 01223 782199
asianhornet@cbka.org.uk

Beginners' Course Coordinator:
Stephen Poyser 01223 840370

Education Secretary:
Alison Goodfellow *alison.goodfellow@cbka.org.uk*

Event & Helper Coordinator:
Hazel Bickle 07753 253623
hazel.bickle@cbka.org.uk

External Talks Coordinator:
Paul Schofield 01487 740724
jpaul.schofield@cbka.org.uk

Honey Show
Secretary: Sandra Chapman
honeyshow@cbka.org.uk

Logistics and volunteers: Pam Fearn 01799 531916;
pam@cmws.co.uk

Librarian: Alison Goodfellow 01954 210650
lal.goodfellow@cbka.org.uk

One-Day Meeting and Talks Coordinator:
Alison Turnbull *alison.turnbull@cbka.org.uk*

Wandlebury Equipment Loan:
Bill Clark 01223 212902
Stephen Poyser 01223 840370

Webmaster: Martin Kendall
webmaster@cbka.org.uk

President: Bill Clark
Vice Presidents: MP for Cambridge City, Director of the University Botanic Garden, the Bishop of Ely, the Chief Executive, Cambridge PPF.

National, Regional & Seasonal Bee Inspectors
Head of National Bee Unit: Kate Wilson
0300 3030094; *kate.wilson@apha.gov.uk*

BeeBase Manager: Adam Parker
adam.parker@apha.gov.uk

National Bee Inspector: Dhonn Atkinson
dhonn.atkinson@apha.gov.uk

RBI: Peter Davies 07900 292160
peter.davies@apha.gov.uk

SBI (P'boro & Cambs): Jack Silberrad
07776 165869; *jack.silberrad@apha.gov.uk*

For a full, up-to-date list of Bee Inspectors, look at BeeBase: www.nationalbeeunit.com



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total
		£	£	£
INCOME	<i>From members</i>			
	Subscriptions	13,272	-	13,272
	Donations	1,093	931	2,024
	CBKA Newsletter	-	-	-
	<i>Amounts collected from members for CBKA activities</i>	<u>14,365</u>	<u>931</u>	<u>15,296</u>
	Additional BDI cover requested by members	560	-	560
	Members' subscriptions to Beekeepers' Quarterly and Beecraft	900	-	900
	Total amounts collected from members	<u>15,825</u>	<u>931</u>	<u>16,756</u>
	<i>From educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	2,989	-	2,989
	Try-a-hive	-	-	-
	Improvers' training course	-	-	625
	One Day Seminar	3,201	-	3,201
	Other courses and events	<u>893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>893</u>
		<u>7,083</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,398</u>
	<i>From sale of products</i>			
	Honey (on behalf of members)	1,476	-	1,476
	Honey (from CBKA hives)	3,434	-	3,434
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	<u>214</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>214</u>
		<u>5,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,576</u>
	<i>Other income, including GiftAid</i>	2,809	172	2,981
	Total income	<u>30,841</u>	<u>1,103</u>	<u>31,944</u>
EXPENDITURE	<i>On behalf of members</i>			
	BBKA membership	(8,999)	-	(8,999)
	Bee Disease Insurance	(1,412)	-	(1,412)
	Beekeepers' Quarterly and Beecraft	(826)	-	(826)
	Bank processing fees	<u>(398)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(398)</u>
		<u>(11,635)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,662)</u>
	<i>On educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	(918)	-	(918)
	Try-a-hive	-	-	-
	Improvers' training course	-	-	(328)
	One Day Seminar	(3,306)	-	(3,306)
	Other talks, courses and events	<u>(2,051)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,641)</u>
		<u>(6,275)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,447)</u>
	<i>On products for sale</i>			
	Honey from members	(1,250)	-	(1,250)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(271)	-	(271)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items and attending events	(324)	-	(324)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	<u>(839)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(929)</u>
		<u>(2,684)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,020)</u>
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>			
	Maintenance	(2,254)	-	(2,254)
	Capital expenditure	<u>(1,717)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,717)</u>
		<u>(3,971)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,276)</u>
	<i>On running the Association</i>			
	Insurance	(556)	-	(556)
	Printing and stationary	(662)	-	(662)
	Room hire	(528)	-	(528)
	Other costs	<u>(488)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(884)</u>
		<u>(2,234)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,278)</u>
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	-	(4,000)
	Total expenditure	<u>(26,799)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,683)</u>
NET INCOME		<u>4,042</u>	<u>1,103</u>	<u>5,145</u>
				<u>3,047</u>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
(Registered charity No. 1183601)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023



		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges	405		330	
	Jars and other packaging for honey	478		453	
	Stock of Polo Shirts	124		135	
	Manuals for beginners	158		18	
			1,165		936
Receivables	Prepayments	-		-	
	GiftAid receivable	4,859		2,022	
	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150		150	
			5,009		2,172
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	7,967		66,223	
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	75,013		10,530	
	Float for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	51		374	
			83,031		77,127
Total assets			89,205		80,235
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	-		-	
	BDI paid in advance	-		-	
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	-		(60)	
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	(3,917)		(90)	
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-	
	Membership subscriptions paid in advance	-		(50)	
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)	
	Other accruals	(854)		(746)	
			(4,791)		(966)
Net assets			84,414		79,269
Represented by					
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	76,424		70,411	
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	4,042		6,013	
	At the end of the year		80,466		76,424
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	2,845		5,811	
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	1,103		1,034	
	Grants made during the year	-		(4,000)	
	At the end of the year		3,948		2,845
Total Funds			84,414		79,269

Note to the Accounts.

CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2023, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly.

Apiary shed- Wandlebury	£7,792	£7,640
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£4,972	£4,874
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£40,403	£39,611
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI)- at each location	£9,324	£9,141
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£19,543	£19,160

Peter Connor
Hon. Treasurer

Auditor

I have examined the Accounts of Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2023.

W Cooper F.C.C.A.
Mr M Cooper

4 APRIL 2024



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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				<u>3,047</u>

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W Cooper F.C.C.A.
Mr M Cooper

4 APRIL 2024

Accounts

CBKA Yearbook 2022



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Editor's report

I AM AGAIN pleased to have continued serving as CBKA editor, including editing and sending out the e-bulletins. This yearbook contains the CBKA reports for 2022, when we began to get back some normality and were able to meet in person somewhat more. However, the Annual General Meeting was held online via Zoom in April and the Minutes are included in this yearbook. There were several outside events that CBKA were able to attend during the year, which were very successful for talking with the public and for sales. Several members were also able to give talks to schools and various organisations, and there is a report included about those; there is also a report from our Librarian, who would encourage you all to see what books are available and continue your learning about beekeeping. Once again, there were a large number of online talks, including speakers from around the world, with many thanks to Sally and her team for the excellent organisation; the talks were all very informative and continued to attract large audiences, including many from overseas and a large number of these now join as associate members. Throughout the year there continued to be monthly get-togethers in various pubs around the county, which have been enthusiastically attended and will hopefully continue, so I hope to see some of you at these events.

It seemed a bit of a strange year again for our beekeeping. Pam and I started the year with six hives through winter; a couple of them swarmed very early and the swarms did fine, but the original hives didn't make a new queen and I couldn't get them to re-establish even when I later added a frame of brood and eggs to each, twice for one of the hives. In late summer, the wasps started attacking one of the hives and despite doing things like turning the hive and closing the entrance off for a couple of days, the wasps wiped out the colony; strange how the wasps completely ignored the other two hives in the apiary. In mid-summer a swarm suddenly appeared in an empty hive, but I don't think it was from one of ours, and we ended the year with seven fairly strong hives going into winter. Honey production was better than I expected with such very hot weather, and then there seemed so much ivy honey that I ended up having to take supers off that were full of it; I melted it out and it tastes okay though sets very quickly. I have now put Candipolline Gold above the crown board on all the hives to hopefully get them through winter and

into spring, but have had to put a cage over the Candipolline in several hives though, to stop the mice eating it.

Asian hornets are getting closer, and we need to continue to guard against them. EFB is a big problem around Cambridge, so if you have any concerns do contact the Bee Inspectors, and their details are on the back page and in Jack's report in this Yearbook. I wish you all well and that you have a successful 2023 season with your bees.

Peter Bates

Chair's Report

THE 2022 SEASON saw the return to a more normal year in the post-lockdown era following the severe impact of COVID. There was still a natural reluctance for face-to-face meetings, but careful planning and enthusiasm saw the return of the ever popular CBKA Beginners' Course held at Chesterton Community College on Gilbert Road. I thank Stephen Poyser and several experienced beekeeper volunteers for delivering a comprehensive course, attended by over 80 enthusiastic beginners. The delivered theory was later put into practice at the important practical sessions which this year were at our Wandlebury and Bourn apiaries. Unfortunately, the ongoing impact of European Foul Brood (EFB) at our Impington Apiary meant that this usual venue couldn't be used, and Colin Bell (our Bourne Apiary Manager) stepped forward to help run the practical sessions. Again, I thank several CBKA members, including Stephen Poyser, manager at our Wandlebury apiary, who passed on their practical skills and tips on gentle handling of bees during hive inspection. I was delighted to help out and encourage others to volunteer in the coming 2023 season.

Returning to EFB, this has become a serious concern in Cambridge city area and throughout the county. There is no room for complacency and CBKA takes this very seriously, as we are one of the most severely affected regions throughout the UK. We have invested research funds to understand more about EFB through Professor Giles Budge in Newcastle. Committee member Philip Turon leads on co-ordinating the CBKA research focus, and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for giving up his time to support this. I also want to acknowledge our seasonal bee inspector, Jack Silberrad, who took over from Jonathan Baynes. With the further spread of EFB, Jack has had a huge amount of hive inspection work and I have been really impressed by his enthusiasm, focus, practical advice and pragmatism. He visited my home apiary as part of an NBU-notified concern near me about EFB. I was able to watch him expertly inspect my hives and pass on his observations and experience. I was pleased to receive a clean bill of health, with no evidence of EFB.

I attended an evening talk on EFB by Jack, held in Central Cambridge. It was well attended by over 30 beekeepers, including apiary managers from Huntingdonshire Beekeepers' Association. There was a lively discussion with

many questions, which Jack comprehensively answered. Although this talk can help, I can't help but reflect that the attendees cannot be the only target audience because every beekeeper in Cambridgeshire needs education on EFB identification and best practice if we are going to make inroads into eliminating this devastating bee disease. In 2023, CBKA will have further focus on how and what we can do to drive down the spread of EFB. One immediate concern is spread through swarm collection and distribution. Please look out for future activities regarding EFB in e-bulletins in 2023. However, we must also not forget the threat from the Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*.

Throughout 2022, Sally Knowles and her volunteer helpers continued to drive the highly successful on-line talks programme. The list of speakers reads like a global "Who's Who" of beekeeping, attracting international associate members to attend from around the globe. Thank you, Sally, and also for your drive of the highly popular Pub Socials.

In Early April, I attended the BBKA Spring Convention held at Harper Adams University in Shropshire. There were diverse lectures and, however long one has been beekeeping, there are always new things to learn about both the theory and practice.

Late in April saw the delayed CBKA AGM being held online. I was concerned with the registration of so few members and up until the last minute we were only just quorate to be able to proceed. I don't understand why, and would love to receive feedback from any members (jpaul.schofield@cbka.org.uk). An important AGM agenda item is the election of Committee members. I was delighted to welcome the election of three new Committee members: Jonathan Baynes, Alison (Lal) Goodfellow and John Hall. I also want to celebrate the huge contribution of David Abson over many years and was delighted to see him elected an honorary member of CBKA, along with John Rayner. John has also made a major contribution to CBKA over many years, being a committee member, educator and long-serving manager of our Wandlebury apiary. I would like to conclude this section by recognizing the contribution of Elisabeth (Liz) Cox, who stood down from her position as CBKA Membership Secretary after several years, handing over the reins to Martin Kendall. She made many significant contributions, including leading the transition of CBKA to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and we will miss her thoughtful and insightful questions at Committee meetings.

By May the season was in full flow and bees in my apiary were very active. I volunteer to be a bee buddy to new beekeepers and I was pleased to visit their new hives to support them in their first season. Early May saw the first CBKA Stand event at Reach Fair. I recognize and thank the drive and logistics of Hazel Bickle and volunteers, including Pam Fearn and Peter Bates, for supporting the CBKA Stand at events throughout Cambridgeshire in 2022. This is a most enjoyable experience where fellow beekeepers can pass on their knowledge to the general public, including the ever-popular observation hive – oh, and to sell CBKA honey.

Over ten years ago, I had an anaphylactic reaction to a bee sting and underwent desensitization by the excellent medical staff at Addenbrookes' Hospital bee- and wasp-sting clinic. In late June 2022, due to my not fully zipping up my bee suit, several bees stung me around my neck and I suffered my second anaphylaxis, self-injecting with my adrenaline-filled pen into my thigh. I am incredibly grateful for the support from the two beekeepers who were with me, as well as the paramedics and ambulance crew. It was my 'fault', but my reminder here is to all beekeepers to double-check that they are fully zipped up in their bee suit! Bees can get through the smallest of gaps.

July saw soaring temperatures in both the UK and in Europe, though this didn't adversely affect my three hives, leading to well over 100 lb (>45 kg) of delicious honey. I had earlier in the season met another local beekeeper and we agreed to caretake each other's colonies when each of us went on holiday. This was reassuring so as not to worry about possible swarming with potential loss of bees as well as a risk of annoying the neighbours! I encourage beekeepers to form groups, if possible, to both share experience and support each other.

I am currently the external talks co-ordinator and have been delighted to give talks and demonstrations throughout the season, from school children to the Cambridge NHS retirement fellowship. I also thank those members in 2022 who have volunteered and given talks on behalf of CBKA.

The annual CBKA Honey Show at the Quy country fair had been cancelled due to COVID in 2021. In early August 2022 the fair returned. and thanks go again to the CBKA Honey Show Secretary, Hamish Symington, for organising the honey show for CBKA members' entries to be displayed and judged for trophies. This was a significant logistical undertaking by Hamish, with free tickets to Quy fair for CBKA members entering exhibits. There were over 140

entries and thanks also to the show judges, Pam Fearn and all of the many other volunteer helpers for their continued support throughout the (hot) weekend.

In September, Stephen Poyser hosted and organized an introductory evening at Chesterton Community College for potential new beekeepers. This was the same format as in 2021, with a 'sense check' of what is involved in beekeeping, including costs and time, so that attendees could make a more informed choice about whether to sign up to the 2023 CBKA Beginners Course. Thank you, Stephen, and also to several other CBKA beekeepers who helped to make the evening a success.

As the 2022 season drew to a close, I once again used the 13 kg fondant block method per hive made popular by Professor David Evans (<https://theapiarist.org/cut-more-losses/>). December closed with the CBKA annual dinner and awards ceremony at Cambridge Regional College. Thanks here for the organization of this event are mainly to Peter Connor, the CBKA Treasurer. Also, membership renewal has become an online electronic system pioneered by the new Membership Secretary and Webmaster, Martin Kendall. Martin has continued to put in many hours of his IT expertise, both for the delivery of the re-vamped CBKA website as well as the electronic membership renewal. Thank you, Martin!

I conclude my report with my profound thanks to all of those mentioned, but also to all other volunteers not named individually. It is thanks to all of you that we can run the many CBKA activities, apiaries, education, socials and talks programme. For those members who have not yet volunteered I strongly encourage you to do so. We are a friendly bunch and share a love of all things beekeeping! I very much look forward to meeting you in 2023.

At the time of writing, I was informed of the death in early December of Raymond Smith. Ray was a long-standing CBKA member, an expert skep-maker, and a true gentleman. I fondly remember his encouragement, friendly gentle character and patience when teaching me at a skep making class at the Scout hut on Perne Road. You could also often see him demonstrating this medieval craft at many CBKA honey shows. On behalf of CBKA I send our condolences to his widow Bridget.

Dr J Paul Schofield

Membership Secretary's Report

THE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION/RENEWAL has completed its first year as a self-service process. This has provided a significant benefit in terms of accurate recording of member details and onward processing by related organisations such as the BBKA. Below are the figures for 2022 showing how many registrations and renewals were made between 1 Dec2021 and 31 Dec 2022.

Year	Ordinary	Associate	Honorary	Partner	Companion	Junior	Total
2022	213	94	4	56	n/a	n/a	367
2021	372	168	4	60	21	15	640
2020	446	29	5	64	23	19	586
2019	402	28	6	61	22	19	538

There are no longer CBKA Companion or Junior membership categories being offered in our range of membership types. As an alternative way to welcome children into the CBKA activities, up to two names can be added to each Ordinary category membership at registration time for £2 per child. The names provided are shown on the membership card for the Ordinary category member.

The BBKA subscription rates continue at £21 + £2 basic BDI for Ordinary members. The CBKA website continues to process all membership automatically. However, the PayPal-based payments have been postponed and Stripe has been an excellent replacement due to much better payment card processing. This also allows the sending of online invoices for any incidental payments needed to be made by members.

In order to facilitate members who do not use social media, the CBKA website offers a Forum facility. All members are subscribed to the forum area and can take part in any of the discussion areas provided. There is an option to unsubscribe by anyone who wishes not to take part. For those members who wish to use instant messaging instead of a traditional online Forum facility there is now a members' WhatsApp group. This facility is evolving gradually and the latest details are shown on all membership Account pages in the website.

Martin Kendall

Wandlebury Apiary Report

THE EIGHT COLONIES taken into the winter at the end of 2021 were: six in National standard brood boxes (including one with a super on as brood and a half), one in a Dartington hive and one in a National 14 x 12 brood box. The winter was uneventful, although I was unable to treat the hives with oxalic acid to reduce any level of *Varroa* because the weather proved exceptionally mild in the early part of the year. One of the National hives dwindled away in the late spring, which was probably as a result of a failing queen, but otherwise all the rest of the hives came through the 2021/22 winter in good condition.

The *Varroa* control during the year was successful to such a degree that it proved difficult to find some to show to beginners during their practical sessions. Early in 2023, it is again intended to give the hives a treatment of oxalic acid (by the trickle method) if the weather permits, in an attempt to ensure the colonies start the year with as few *Varroa* mites as possible. In the early spring of 2022, the colonies were fed fondant icing as an insurance against starvation and later Candipolline Gold as a pollen substitute to boost brood production. This repeatedly appears to prove worthwhile as the colonies were strong by the late spring, so it is intended to use Candipolline again in the spring of 2023.

European Foul Brood (EFB) was again found to the south of Cambridge, which resulted in me receiving three notifications of it being identified within 3km of Wandlebury, but I am pleased to report no EFB was found at the apiary. The restriction on swarms being brought to Wandlebury (to prevent the spread of EFB) and the lack of swarms at the apiary meant that it was not feasible to provide a stocked observation hive for use by the education team of wardens at Wandlebury. We did use the apiary for the practical sessions for the 2022 beginners, but we did not hold any Practical Apiary Meetings (PAMs); however, it is proposed to reintroduce these in 2023. During the summer of 2022, only one colony was split, to prevent swarming and to replace the earlier loss, and one colony was donated by a member, so we ended the year with nine hives: six in National standard brood boxes (two as double brood boxes), one in a Dartington and two in 14 x 12 brood boxes.

The hives again collected a huge amount of ivy nectar during the Autumn of 2022, but they were still fed syrup, treated against *Varroa* with Apiguard,

given mouse guards and woodpecker protection before winter. A check on the weight of the hives is being carried out at regular intervals during the winter and if required, packs of fondant icing will be added to the hives. I still intend to restock the WBC, whilst ensuring there are enough good colonies for beginners to carry out inspections and manipulations. The colony in the Dartington hive will be moved into a 14 x 12 brood box because the hive requires some remedial work.

The apiary has again had a reasonably productive year and nine supers were removed, which yielded in the region of 190 lb of honey that will be sold to supplement the CBKA bank account. Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF), our landlords, undertook some work around the shed and the apiary during early 2022, but further tree felling is anticipated as a result of Ash die back disease affecting an ever-increasing number of trees.

If you would like to be involved in helping with the Wandlebury apiary, please contact me. I again intend to use the time for a combination of sharing information and spreading the load of looking after the CBKA interests at Wandlebury, whilst enjoying beekeeping.

Stephen Poyser, Wandlebury Apiary Manager

Impington Apiary Report

EACH YEAR NEW frames need to be made to replace old ones in the hives and, because the honey comb is cut out for extraction (see below), about 200 – 260 super frames need rewaxing, a considerable task. During February, CBKA members who had attended the Improvers' course helped at two Saturday morning frame-making parties. They were enjoyable mornings; the apiary managers are extremely grateful for this help and plan to hold similar parties in 2023.

Twelve colonies were well fed with syrup in autumn 2021 and given homemade candy or Candipolline blocks in the New Year. One colony died over winter, but eleven survived and had laying queens when fully inspected at the end of March. The apiary had several cases of European Foul Brood (EFB) in 2019 and 2020, but no EFB was found in colonies in 2021. At the apiary inspection on 22 April 2022, Jack Silberrad (SBI) found EFB in one colony. The colony was killed, the frames and bees burned and the hive parts scorched. The apiary was put under a standstill notice and could not be used for beginners or other practical training. Some colonies were broodless at the re-inspection on 12 June and the standstill had to continue until 29 July when all colonies had sufficient brood to be inspected. No EFB was found and the standstill notice was lifted. This allowed Bill Block to conduct BBKA Basic Assessments at the apiary on 31 July and 7 August. Nine candidates passed, five with credits.

Soon after EFB had been found, we tried to prevent swarms leaving the apiary and transferring EFB to other areas. Queens in all hives were found and clipped, but most colonies still tried to swarm. Without a flying queen the swarms usually returned to the hive or, on a few occasions, a small swarm assembled around the queen on the ground. The colonies were then thoroughly inspected and queen cells reduced down to just one good cell to prevent casts leaving the hive. Through this policy we were fairly sure that no CBKA swarms left the apiary. Because the apiary is open to full sun, two days before the predicted record high temperatures white sheets were placed over the most exposed hives to prevent the colonies overheating. All colonies survived the record temperature (39.9°C recorded in Cambridge).

Since 2019 several colonies that had had EFB have been destroyed and replacement colonies have all come from two queen lines. To broaden interest

for beginners and improvers, it was decided to add a Buckfast queen to the apiary. A new laying queen was purchased from BHP Queens and introduced into one of the hives in the summer; it will be assessed through the 2023 season. We would like to add other good breeding lines to the apiary, and this is something we will be pursuing in the coming seasons.

The last of the honey supers were taken off hives on 23 August and Apiguard put on above the brood boxes to control varroa. Of the 13 hives at the apiary, nine colonies produced extractable honey and 22 supers gave a total of 450 lb of honey and 19 lb of wax. This is the most honey ever produced at the Bedlam apiary, giving a yield of 50 lb per productive hive. Supers were stored with plywood sheets between each box and were extracted 4-5 weeks after being taken off the hives. In that time, some had been infested with wax moth and had to be destroyed. Wax moth has been a particular problem this year and some drawn brood frames were heavily infested and had to be destroyed.

For several seasons, super frames have been used with half sheets of unwired thin foundation. This has been successful and has several benefits for the apiary management at Bedlam. We avoid the need to extract honey mid-season, we minimise the opportunity for disease transfer season-to-season and hive-to-hive and it is very cost effective. It is, however, time consuming during the autumn and winter. The honey is extracted in the autumn by spinning where possible. The comb is cut out where the honey has set, and melted using the CBKA Apimelter. To reduce the risk of EFB being transferred to colonies the next year, all used frames are initially cleaned with the CBKA Easisteam and then boiled in a washing soda solution.

All 13 colonies were fed with sugar syrup during September and early October. Bees were very active during the warm autumn and some colonies took down or used lots of syrup. Wasps were a persistent problem and entrances were reduced to stop them getting into the hives. High numbers of *Varroa* mites were noticed on some floor slides during the Apiguard treatment in August/September, so oxalic acid (Apibioxal) syrup was dribbled into the top bars on 17 December. During this treatment, two colonies were found to have died; it did not appear to be starvation or robbing because there were plenty of accessible stores but very few bees.

Monitoring of three hives with the Arnia equipment continued throughout the year. It was interesting to see that brood temperature from late April to

October in all three colonies was maintained at a steady 35°C throughout, which is remarkable considering the extremely hot summer. The humidity within the colonies also remained around 50% with only minor fluctuations during the same period. Hive weight showed a steady increase from around 40 kg in April to a maximum of 60 kg in July. Peak flight activity fluctuated considerably, with peaks in March and May reaching maxima in July/August and declining in September. Further analysis linked to colony status and manipulations will be necessary to monitor events within the colonies.

The Association remains grateful to Chivers Farms Ltd for their continued support of the apiary at Bedlam Farm.

Roy Cross, Bill Block and Peter Dawson (Apiary Managers)

Bourn Apiary Report

EIGHT FULL COLONIES in national brood boxes and on a brood and a half (one super added to offer extra brood space) and three five-frame nucs survived the winter into 2022, and the apiary suffered no damage from the February gales. The previous autumns work to secure and strengthen the windbreak netting, certainly paid off. All colonies were treated with oxalic acid (dribble method) in January to reduce *Varroa* and, as insurance against starvation, all were given fondant icing. In early spring the colonies received a home-made pollen substitute feed (recipe available from Colin). A word of warning, adding a pollen substitute can increase the risk of early swarming. The substitute gave a real boost with the colonies increasing in strength very quickly and it soon became clear which colonies were exhibiting favourable characteristics. These were given a comb change by removing two old frames and replaced with two new foundation-less frames containing starter strips of wax to encourage the production of drones. The less favourable colonies received a programme of regular drone culling; queens and workers inherit up to 50% of their genes from the drones, so it is important to exert as much influence as possible to input 'good' drones into the mating area.

The Bourn apiary remains free of European Foul Brood (EFB), but with EFB prevalent in the Cambridge area biosecurity was a must. All visitors to the apiary were asked to have clean, newly washed bee-suits, clean gloves and to bring no equipment onto the site. Nitrile over-gloves were provided, and six clean bee-suits were kept on site and made available to visitors as required.

This year for the first time the apiary was used for some of the 2022 beginners' course practical sessions. Four colonies were chosen and prepared in readiness and we duly hosted 30 course members for three weekly sessions. Our visiting beginners were able to experience first-hand the biosecurity measures associated with EFB; time was taken to explain the disease and how we all need to be vigilant and importantly not to collect swarms from infected areas and not to purchase bees from unregulated sources in the Cambridge area. The practical sessions proved very worthwhile and enjoyable, although all four colonies suffered from being open for over an hour at each session, resulting in signs of swarming. As a preventive measure, three of the four colonies were split and new colonies were created.

With the regular team of James Cole, Mark Taylor and Sue Snape, we visited the Apiary every Tuesday evening throughout the summer months, beginning with swarm control measures. We had 26 empty five-frame nuc boxes in the shed and our aim was to utilise as many as possible throughout the season, firstly with a low-key programme of increase by building nucs direct from colonies. Following the beginner sessions, we experimented with methods described in Wally Shaw's booklet *Simple Methods of Making Increase*. These are really variations on the Pagdon swarm control method and very simple to execute and produced good results.

No major problems were experienced with our queens mating, I'm sure in part due to good weather throughout the season. I have heard reports of problems in other areas with early queen development in the cells during April/May, which seemed to coincide with the lack of oil-seed rape being grown. A recent study showed that on average species on OSR benefited from its increased cropping, concluding OSR (even with seed dressings) is beneficial to bees at a critical time of year.

Early autumn treatment for *Varroa* was carried out on the full colonies, with some receiving Apiguard and some Apivar, whilst the nucs were each treated with just one strip of Apivar. An autumn feed of Apikel was then given to all colonies. This was removed towards the end of October, but with the unusually mild weather continuing and the bees still very active in mid November it was decided to give the overwintering nucs an early block of fondant icing just in case. Plastic sheeting was stapled to the outsides of the hives as woodpecker protection and mouse guards added where required. The hives will be regularly hefted during the winter, all will receive a Christmas present of fondant icing and, during a suitably cold spell, oxalic acid treatment.

Providing enough worker bees to populate the nucs was the biggest problem and our donor colonies were constantly monitored throughout the season. We did utilise all 26 nuc boxes and all our nuc colonies were complete with new queens successfully mated on site. All the new queens are from our stock of local bees carried over from last winter and mated on site. The stock are mongrels and of unknown origin and, while some new queens will perform well, some may well present the unfavourable characteristics of an 'F1' strain. Members who took a nuc have been asked to monitor their new colony and report back next year. Only by careful record keeping, monitoring

over a long time and constantly raising new stock from the best performing colonies will we be able to improve our local bees.

My thanks to James, Mark and Sue for their continued help, loyalty and reliability throughout the year. If you are interested in learning how easy it is to produce queens for yourself and would like to be involved or would like to come along and just observe, please contact me or a member of the regular team.

Colin Bell, Bourn Apiary Manager

CBKA Equipment Use

RECORDED BORROWING OF CBKA equipment from the Wandlebury bee-shed for the period 2014 through 2022 is shown below. Note that this is not a comprehensive list, because some items were borrowed without being signed out and some items were out for many months as a single booking (e.g. virtual hive for events and several series of talks in previous years).

	2014	2015	2016	2107	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Extractors	119	85	79	106	79	65	85	60	73
Pratley trays	55	34	39	52	39	35	38	22	35
Honey tanks	27	13	24	25	18	13	17	15	21
Wax melter	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	3
Easi-steam	1	0	0	10	1	4	1	2	9
Virtual hive	7	2	7	9	5	7	0	1	5
Creamer-paddle	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0	2
Candle moulds	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	0	1
Apimelter	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	4

In addition to the items listed above, do not forget that the CBKA have filters, an electric uncapping knife, an uncapping tray and wax processing equipment, including a solar wax extractor, which can be borrowed if required. The records above indicate that we probably had a reasonable year for honey production and certainly better than 2021.

A reminder that when borrowing a Pratley tray it is essential that you take the correct electric lead, because there are three different types, otherwise you will have had a wasted journey. When returning the Pratley tray please ensure the electric lead, wax filter and the uncapping board are also returned. Please return any equipment in a state you would want to find it and return it as soon as possible after use.

The access track to the bee-shed has a gate and chain, and the CBKA has fitted a combination padlock to the Wandlebury Wardens' padlock. Please link our padlock through the chain and the Wardens' padlock when leaving the site, to enable both the CBKA members and the Wardens to use the track. The bee-shed is fitted with movement sensors to switch the lights on and off; therefore, you do not need to find a switch to turn the lights off when you

leave, but do please make sure you lock the bee-shed door.

If whilst you are using an item, you find that something is broken or it breaks whilst you are using it, please inform us so that repairs can be implemented before somebody else takes the item home only to find they have had a wasted journey.

In an attempt to ensure only members of the CBKA use the equipment, when you contact us for the codes you may be kept waiting on the phone – even though we may recognise your name. This is so that we can check your 2023 membership details.

In order to borrow equipment, you will require both the gate padlock code and the new door code; the door code will be changed again in early 2023. Please keep borrowed equipment for as short a time as possible (seven days as a maximum) because it is inconsiderate to other CBKA members for anyone to have equipment out for a long period of time.

When you have been given the codes to access the bee-shed, please do not pass the codes to others, otherwise we have no knowledge of who has borrowed equipment or even if they are still members of the CBKA.

Please ensure you book the equipment out and back in when appropriate, by putting details on the note-pad hanging adjacent to the extractors, and write clearly and legibly because we need to know who you are. In 2023, please be considerate of other members if you borrow any equipment and return things promptly and clean.

Stephen Poyser and Bill Clark, Wandlebury Equipment Coordinators

The Inspector's Brief

IT IS WITH pleasure that I report a great 2022 season working in Cambridgeshire. I have been especially pleased to observe networking and rapport-building pay dividends, with many beekeepers contacting the inspector's email address to interrogate a suspected disorder of the colony, share photographs or ask a question of husbandry. Maintaining contact is very welcome, because this allows prioritised inspections and very often a rapid source of relief upon revealing more benign maladies.

Many members will have seen news of the Portsmouth and Essex Asian hornet nests successfully tracked down and eliminated by the NBU last year. We will all be looking forward to expanding our knowledge and understanding of this pest, with talks later this year.

No doubt you will also have heard of the record year for European Foul Brood (EFB) diagnosis in Cambridgeshire last season, though I would caution there is some nuance. A number of factors are used to decide which areas represent a higher priority for inspection, including locales with historical EFB cases, beekeepers with recently diagnosed colonies, nearest neighbours and those engaged in selling bees and their products. Within an overall historical trend of rising cases of EFB and a concentrated inspection regime focused on Cambridge and the surrounds, an increased rate of diagnosis seemed likely. While a substantial uptick in cases has been observed, this enhanced surveillance meant the majority of colonies were treated successfully using the shook-swarm method. Many beekeepers took advantage of compensation via the Bee Diseases Insurance scheme.

With an ever-higher density of beekeepers, both producing and acquiring swarms, cases are now beginning to appear in more rural and traditionally EFB-free areas, where swarms are transported to out-apiaries. Protect yourself when collecting a swarm with three easy tips:

- **House swarms on fresh undrawn foundation only:** drawn comb allows immediate deposition of honey from the mother colony – and potentially disease from therein!
- **Feed your swarm only after three days, if at all:** the swarm will use the honey crop it arrived with for energy, maximising clearance of disease; feeding is unnecessary during a flow

- **Treat your swarm for *Varroa* mites:** Swarms carry about half the *Varroa* mites of the mother colony; when comb-drawing indicates a settled swarm (after ~7 days) consider a *Varroa* treatment. Oxalic acid-based treatments during this period with open brood would be very effective.

Remember! “99p or EFB” – washing soda is inexpensive, 1 kg makes 5 litres of washing solution. It is an effective barrier to cross-contamination of hives and apiaries when used to wash gloves, hive tools and smoker bellows, especially where the fingertips rest! One 99p batch lasts a long time when used as 1 litre portions in a bucket and refreshing when soiled.

Coming through winter, many beekeepers will now be looking to ensure feed and stores on their stock are sufficient, and observe their colonies building up in the spring. Comparing colonies, we may notice one or more are developing differently during expected build-up. An initial check by shaking bees from the combs to enable proper viewing will inform decisions about husbandry or the need for a precautionary inspection.

As before, I look forward to hearing from you via email to jack.silberrad@apha.gov.uk or on 07776 165869. With all the hard work and affirmative action from beekeepers in the last year, the maintenance of good apiary hygiene, and growing knowledge through talks and wider research, I look forward to continuing working together with you to affect good bee health and husbandry.

Jack Silberrad, Seasonal Bee Inspector

Exam Secretary's Report

AFTER A COVID-ENFORCED break in 2021, the Improvers' Course resumed in 2022 with 25 people enrolled. Unfortunately, Barny Henderson had to miss three of the six sessions; one week was missed because of a business trip to the U.S, and the next two weeks were missed because of a Covid infection picked up during the trip. Thankfully, Steve Kilmurray and Jack Silberrad were able to step into the gap and led the sessions excellently.

In the summer we had 18 candidates take their BBKA Basic Assessment (some from the 2020 cohort). There were 10 who achieved a Credit (congratulations to Annemarie Joswig, Christopher Oakes, James Warren, Jaquie Finn, Joanna Percival, Maria Wilson, Milly Farouki, Robin Lea, Rudolf Marx and Thomas Deingruber) and 8 who achieved a Pass mark (congratulations to Alison Goodfellow, Andrew Denson, Catherine Hubbard, Heather Lloyd-Jones, Martin Harnor, Richard Rowlands, Stephen Taylor and Tania Pauley). Many thanks to Bill Block and Jonathan Baynes (our wonderful Examiners) and to Peter Connor for handling our finances. The course could not run without them.

Special mention must go to Ann Mahaffey who passed the BBKA Module 8 exam with Distinction. That also meant that she became only the third person from the CBKA to achieve their BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate. She accomplished that with an overall Credit mark.

Barny Henderson

Beginners' Course Report

2022 Beginners

AS A RESULT of COVID, the 2021 Beginners' Course was cancelled, which meant a carry over of prospective beginners to the 2022 course, together with those who had subsequently applied to join. The initial eight lectures were duly completed and, although we lost a few attendees along the way, the majority reached the end and prepared for the practical sessions at the CBKA apiaries at either Wandlebury or Impington.

As in previous years, I have to give a huge vote of thanks to all the people who assisted in the various aspects of the completed part of the 2022 course, which include IT expertise, manhandling chairs and PA equipment, giving the lectures, organising or helping provide the practical sessions, offering to be "Bee Buddies/Mentors" to beginners and helping to provide bees for them.

This year the provision of bees has been a particular problem because it appeared that many early swarms departed to their new homes before any beekeeper could get to them and there was a significant impact of European Foul Brood (EFB) in and around Cambridge. It resulted in a decision that I would not accept any swarms at Wandlebury due to not wanting EFB taken to the teaching apiary, and I was not happy for them to be passed to beginners. This significantly reduced the number of swarms I became aware of, but where splits had been created I was happy for these to be passed to the beginners.

The ongoing impact of EFB is something we are addressing, but last year I was not happy for a potentially infected colony to be passed to a beginner, only to see it dwindle and either die out or be destroyed; this would surely be the worst beginning for a beekeeper to have to their new hobby. This resulted in some of the 2022 course not getting bees last year, but hopefully they will obtain some early in 2023 from recognised breeders or from their Bee Buddy.

The Autumn lecture for the course (honey removal, *Varroa* treatment, feeding and preparing for winter) was held, but the attendance was not as good as hoped for; this may have been as a result of the lack of bees. The final lecture of the 2022 course was scheduled for 11 January 2023, but on 9 December 2022 we were notified that our bookings for 2023 in the venue at Chesterton had been cancelled, and when writing this we are seeking a suitable venue to hold the lecture.

2023 Beginners

DURING 2022, WE received approximately 130 expressions of interest in attending the 2023 course. In an effort to ensure we only had seriously interested people, an Introductory Session was held in late 2022 that hopefully meant that we have approaching a full course of 90 keen potential beekeepers. However, the decision by Chesterton to cancel our bookings for the venue for the course has resulted in a delay in even starting it, as we have been trying after the notification to secure a suitable venue to run it.

Assuming we can run the course, we will certainly be wanting help in providing nucs of bees and giving both time and expertise with the practical sessions. Therefore, please let me know if you are willing to be involved in any of these.

Stephen Poyser, Beginners Course Coordinator

External Talks 2022

ACCORDING TO THE Constitution of the CBKA, its primary purpose (also called its 'object') is to "promote and further the craft of bee-keeping". You should know that as part of your completion of your membership form each year, we ask whether you would be willing to give talks on behalf of CBKA. We have around 20 beekeepers who volunteer and I would be delighted if any members reading this would consider adding to this list. You don't have to be an expert and just by being a beekeeper you will most likely know a lot more than your audience.

Throughout the beekeeping year I act as an outreach coordinator. Requests for talks arrive, usually via an email to the secretary, though we also have a dedicated email address (outreach@cbka.org.uk) that can be found with more information in the education section of the CBKA website.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those of you who have spoken in 2022. I am also aware that there are CBKA members who have given talks through personal contact, and not through the outreach programme, and I want to thank you too for doing this. Personally, I find it incredibly rewarding to see the excited look on the faces of young school children when I give a 'show-and-tell' whilst dressed in my beesuit. Also, to provide answers to the broad-ranging questions of older persons about honey, beekeeping facts or the planting of bee-friendly flowers.

I apologise here for any omissions, but I have recorded below those talks that I'm aware of in 2022. I would be very pleased to receive contact from any you who have spoken so that I can acknowledge you in future summaries.

Rebecca Strivens gave talks to the reception children at Histon and Impington Park Infants School in Spring, 2022. Glyn Jones also gave talks to Impington schoolchildren in June 2022. Kirsten McLaughlin spoke to the schoolchildren at Somersham Primary School in May 2022. I gave talks to Barton Primary School children and the University of Cambridge Primary School in Eddington in May 2022. Richard Game spoke at the Melbourn Springs Care Home in July 2022. Jonathan Baynes gave a talk at the Sandon Gardening Club. Graham Beesley spoke to children at Cambourne Village College. Finally, I gave talks to the 26th Cambridge Brownies, Earith Primary School, and to the NHS Retirement Fellowship at their meeting in Fulbourn in late August.

Once again, thank you to all of those mentioned, and also those that I am either unaware of or those I have forgotten. The talks demonstrate that we are fulfilling our ambition to spread the word about the fascinating hobby of beekeeping!

Paul Schofield, Outreach Co-ordinator

The CBKA Library

AS THE NEW librarian for the CBKA, I have completed a stock check of all the books stored in the Central Library collections. We have over 200 books and the updated book list is on the CBKA website along with instructions on how to borrow books.

I have also purchased some new books that will be added to the list. These are:

- *Honeybee Veterinary Medicine: Apis mellifera L*, by Nicolas Vidal-Naquet – this is a useful book with lots of detail about the parasites and diseases that affect honeybees.
- *Varroa Management: a practical guide on how to manage Varroa mites in honeybee colonies*, by Kirsty Stainton – gives details of all the current treatments for *Varroa* and explains how to use them in a step-by-step guide; would be very helpful for new beekeepers.
- *Pollen Grains & Honeydew*: a guide for identifying the plant sources in honey, by Margaret Anne Adams – this has detailed pictures and information about the plants and pollen in the UK and sets out a simple approach to beekeepers who want to identify the plant sources of their own honey.
- *Food Safety for Beekeepers: advice on legal requirements and practical actions*, by Andy Pedley – published in 2022, this book gives up-to-date advice on the legislation in England, along with practical advice.

THE CBKA LIBRARY has a wide range of books that would be very useful to anyone wishing to take any of the BBKA modules, but also to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge of any aspect of beekeeping. Any member of the CBKA can borrow books. Please get in touch with me if you have any problems or questions about the book collection. Also, let me know if you want to suggest books that we should purchase to add to our library.

Alison Goodfellow

Events Coordinator Report

AS A RESULT of some organisations starting afresh after Covid-19, and other events being cancelled as a result of the death of the Queen, we only attended 6 events in 2022. The list of attended events is: Reach Fair, Haslingfield Eco Event, Whittlesford, CBKA Honey Show at Stow cum Quy (2 days), Stourbridge Fair and Gransden Show. As in previous years, 10% of our takings was donated to the organisers in lieu of paying a pitch fee. We were very well received at all of the events and there is no doubt an observation hive, with a good colony of bees within it, is a very good draw for the public. As normal for “the public” there is nothing like a crowd of people to act as a draw for others!

The bulk of the honey sold came from the CBKA apiaries at Wandlebury and Impington and the sales during the year were:

- 1 lb liquid honey: 264
- 1 lb set honey: 51
- 3/4 lb liquid honey: 126
- 3/4 lb set honey: 42
- 1/2 lb liquid honey: 112
- Cut comb: 16
- Wax blocks: 48

This resulted in total sales of £3,634 for 2022.

A huge thank you to all 18 CBKA Members who volunteered to come and help run the stalls and fulfil our charitable aims at the five one-day shows. Many CBKA Members attended more than one event (often at short notice as a result of the withdrawal by another helper). We also appreciate the 28 helpers who ensured the smooth running of the 2-day CBKA Honey Show at Quy. Offering to help at an event is not all hard work because it gives you the chance to look around the event and discuss queries or topics with other beekeepers on the stall.

Events for 2023 are starting to be booked, with Reach Fair on Monday 1 May, Honey Show at the Cambridge Country Show, Quy, on 5 and 6 August, and Gransden Show on 30 September. We are always seeking helpers to enable the events to run smoothly, so please contact us by email to hazel.bickle@cbka.org.uk to put your name forward to assist with the CBKA stall at any of the events; it is helpful, educational and a way of putting something back into the CBKA. Without the helpers we would not attend and, therefore, not comply with one of the main aims of our charitable status “To further and promote the craft of beekeeping”.

Hazel Bickle and Stephen Poyser

AGM Minutes

Minutes of the CBKA Annual General Meeting
Sunday 24 April 2022 at 3 pm, online via Zoom

Apologies and Chairman's Introduction

Apologies were received from Stephen Poyser, Daniel Zeichner MP, The Bishop of Ely, James Littlewood, Prof. Beverley Glover.

The meeting was quorate with 29 members attending. The CBKA Chairman, Paul Schofield, welcomed the members of the CBKA to the 2022 AGM, the first since 2019 due to Covid and restrictions on public meetings.

Minutes of the CBKA SGM held on 6 October 2019

Because this was the first AGM since the Association became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), those minutes were provided for reference. There were no questions.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Please see the Chairman's report in the 2021 Yearbook. Paul thanked the Committee and other members of the CBKA for their varied and invaluable help in running the CBKA over the past years.

Treasurer's report including presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Please see the Yearbook 2021 for the accounts and detailed Treasurer's report. Net income in 2021 was higher than expected at around £5000, the 2022 Beginners' Course took place and there is a schedule of events planned for 2022, at which CBKA honey will be sold. All of this should ensure that the CBKA finances remain healthy. There were no questions.

Membership fees for 2022 – for information only

The BBKA advised that it was increasing its annual membership fee from 1 October 2021 as follows:

- Ordinary members: An 11% increase from £19 to £21
- Partner members: An 8% increase from £12.50 to £13.50

This was the first increase in BBKA fees since 2015. In the light of the CBKA's financial position, the Committee had decided the Association will not pass on all of this increase to members in 2022, but absorb half of this increase itself. As a result, CBKA membership fees for 2022 would be:

- Ordinary members: £29
- Partner members: £16

Fees for Junior and other classes of members will remain unchanged.

Election of Trustees

In accordance with the CBKA's constitution, one third of the Association's trustees must step down at the AGM and, if so willing, offer themselves for re-election. This year, the following are stepping down:

- Chairman: Paul Schofield
- Membership Secretary: Liz Cox

Paul Schofield offered himself for re-election as Chairman; was proposed by Susan Wilkie and seconded by Martin Kendall and was elected with a clear majority (23 votes).

Martin Kendall offered himself for election as Membership Secretary; was proposed by Paul Schofield, seconded by Liz Cox and was elected with a clear majority (23 votes).

Paul thanked Liz Cox for her work for the CBKA, including writing the new CBKA constitution.

Election of Six Committee Members

In accordance with CBKA's constitution, the Association's non-trustee Committee Members must step down at the AGM and, if so willing, offer themselves for re-election. The following indicated their willingness to stand for re-election: David Abson, Stephen Poyser, Philip Turon, Sally Knowles. Three more candidates were also nominated: John Hall, Jonathan Baynes and Alison Goodfellow.

All the candidates were asked to speak briefly about themselves and what they hoped to achieve for the CBKA were they to become members of the Committee.

Those attending were asked to vote for a maximum of six candidates from the seven proposed:

- David Abson proposed by Peter Connor, seconded by Peter Bates

- Jonathan Baynes proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded by Paul Schofield
- Alison Goodfellow proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded by Susan Wilkie
- John Hall proposed by Sally Knowles, seconded by Susan Wilkie
- Sally Knowles proposed by Susan Wilkie, seconded by Martin Kendall
- Stephen Poyser proposed by Susan Wilkie, seconded by Bill Block
- Philip Turon proposed by Doug Brown, seconded by Elizabeth Cox

DA – 12 votes, JB – 21, AG – 21, JH – 20, SK – 24, SP – 25, PT – 21. The elected CBKA Committee members for 2022/2023 are Jonathan Baynes, Alison Goodfellow, John Hall, Sally Knowles, Stephen Poyser and Philip Turon.

Paul thanked David for his long service on the Committee and for organising the One-Day Seminar for many years.

Election of President and Vice-Presidents

Current President Bill Clark was proposed by Stephen Poyser and seconded by Bill Block – carried unanimously.

Vice-Presidents

Paul proposed voting *en bloc* for the Vice Presidents, subject to their agreement to stand. Seconded by Peter Bates. Carried unanimously.

Honorary Members

The Committee proposed conferring Honorary Membership on John Rayner and David Abson. Both have given the CBKA many years of dedicated service.

John Rayner was a member of the CBKA Committee for many years. He designed and wrote the original computerised membership system, played a large part in the Beginners' Course and managed the Wandlebury Apiary. The meeting voted unanimously to confer Honorary Membership on John Rayner.

David Abson has been a Committee Member for many years, contributing his long beekeeping experience and insight to discussions (and also tea, biscuits and humorous interjections). He organised many successful and well-attended One Day Seminars and has enthusiastically engaged members of the public visiting the CBKA stall at numerous local events. The meeting voted unanimously with one abstention to confer Honorary Membership on David Abson.

Resolution “That we remove Companion member from the list of membership types available” (see Clause 10).

Reasons:

- a. Companion members have no voting rights (see Clause 12(6)(a) and do not receive anything for their membership that is not available to the general public. They can attend our talks and meetings. If an Ordinary member wishes to bring a partner or friend to a meeting they can already do so.
- b. If they wish to support CBKA they could join as an Associate or make a donation.
- c. the new online system cannot deal with too many membership combinations

The resolution was carried (96% in favour).

Resolution “That this meeting agrees that those Associate members of CBKA who reside outside the United Kingdom have their voting rights removed”

Reasons:

- a. As a result of the very successful talks programme, the number of Associate members joining CBKA has increased significantly. However, many of them live outside of the UK and are unlikely to ever visit us or attend any of our meetings in person. It seems inappropriate, therefore, for them to have voting rights.
- b. The quorum for CBKA meetings is 5% of the total membership who have voting rights i.e. Honorary, Ordinary, Partner and Associates. Because a large proportion of Associates are unlikely to attend our meetings in person, this could mean that we are inquorate, despite many of our local members being present.

The resolution was carried (92% in favour).

AOB and questions for the Committee

Doug Brown – Vice Presidents are members of the community in a position to assist the CBKA if it becomes necessary to do so. Is it absolutely necessary to put their election to the position to a vote at the AGM? Making this the remit of the Committee would allow greater flexibility and simplify the AGM. The Constitution is silent on the subject of Presidents and Vice Presidents.

Response: No opposition to removing this item from the agenda was expressed, so DB will bring the proposal to the Committee.

Hazel Bickle asked the attendees to consider helping at the Reach Fair. PT pointed out that there was a lack of volunteers for all the events.

LC and SK thanked Tom Wilkie for handling the voting system and facilitating smooth running of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked all participants, wished them a successful beekeeping season and reminded them to follow all EFB guidelines.

Meeting closed at 4.20 pm.

Treasurer's Report

THE ASSOCIATION HAS had a very successful year, with Covid-19 casting less of a shadow over our activities than in the previous two years and significantly more activity as a result. We were able to hold the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses this year, together with a very successful Honey Show and Annual Dinner. It is a delight to be able to promote our craft to the wider public once more, and to meet with – and chat to – the wider membership, especially the volunteers who support our training activities and events. I would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Summary of income and expenditure for 2022

The following table summarises the income and expenditure in 2022, together with the equivalent figures for 2021, categorised by each source of income and its associated costs, with further detail on each set out in the narrative below the table.

INCOME

THE CBKA DERIVES its income from the following sources:

- a. Members' subscriptions and donations. The largest source of the CBKA's income is members' subscriptions and donations. The total received, including amounts paid for additional BDI insurance, the Beekeepers' Quarterly journal and donations towards research, was c. £16,700, which was broadly the same as the previous year. Within that total, subscription income increased by c. £1,500. This was due to a combination of a higher number of members, primarily due to the new members joining from the 2022 Beginners' Course, and an increase in the Ordinary membership subscription of £1. This increase was solely to reflect an increase in the BBKA's annual fees, which increased by £2 for Ordinary members; the Committee had previously agreed to restrict the increase in our membership fee to just £1 and absorb the rest of the BBKA's increase rather than passing the whole amount on to members. However, donations received from members with their subscriptions were c. £700 lower than in 2021, no doubt reflecting the current economic climate.
- b. Educational activities. The second largest source of income for the

		2022			2021		
		Inc.	Exp.	Net inc.	Inc.	Exp.	Net inc.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1	From / on behalf of members	16,723	(11,662)	5,061	16,447	(9,977)	6,470
2	Educational activities	6,398	(4,447)	1,951	–	(2,129)	(2,129)
3	The sale of products	4,576	(2,020)	2,556	4,187	(655)	3,532
4	Other income, including GiftAid	2,033	-	2,033	3,173	-	3,173
5	Running the Association's apiaries	-	(2,276)	(2,276)	-	(2,795)	(2,795)
6	Running the Association	-	(2,278)	(2,278)	-	(2,240)	(2,240)
7	Grants to research organisations	-	(4,000)	(4,000)	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
		29,730	(26,683)	3,047	23,807	(18,796)	5,011

CBKA is normally its educational activities, comprising:

- The Beginners' Course
- The Improvers' Course
- The One Day Seminar
- Other events, such as a Bee Disease Day, a coach trip and the Annual Dinner

It was a relief that we were able to run the Beginner's and Improvers' Courses in 2022 after Covid-19 had prevented us from doing so in 2021. The Beginners' course was particularly well attended, with 90 participants. Unfortunately Covid-19 prevented us from holding our One-Day Seminar in 2022, but we look forward to this year's One-Day Seminar, which will take place on 15 April 2023.

We were able to host our Annual Dinner for the first time since

2019, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many members to the CRC in December – and to congratulate the many winners from the 2022 Honey Show who received their prizes at the dinner.

- c. The sale of products. As COVID restrictions eased, the Association was able to attend more events than in 2021 and 2020, and it is reassuring to see the public's continuing demand for high quality honey when it is available. In addition to the sale of honey at these events, the Association made some bulk sales of honey to several members. In the spring, the Association was able to exchange c. 140 kg of wax at Thorne's for both fresh foundation worth c. £450, and a credit of £406 against the purchase of equipment for its apiaries.
- d. Other income. Gift Aid remains a very welcome supplement to the Association's income, and effectively funds the day-to-day administrative costs of running the Association, enabling the Committee to channel all of the income from members and the Association's other activities into its charitable activities. Therefore, I encourage all members who are able to take advantage of Gift Aid to do so on their membership renewal forms. Gift Aid for 2022 has not yet been agreed with HMRC, but is expected to be lower than in previous years because fewer members appear eligible, or have chosen, to Gift Aid their subscriptions or donations. General donations to the Association were c. £500 lower than in 2021.

Expenditure

Expenditure during the year related to the following:

- a. On behalf of members. The majority of the subscriptions paid by members is paid across to organisations such as the BBKA, BDI and Beekeepers' Quarterly. These costs increased significantly because, as noted above, the BBKA increased its fee by £2 per Ordinary member and £1 per Partner member.
- b. Educational activities. Expenditure on educational activities relates primarily to room hire and speakers' fees for the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses and our talks programme, together with the cost of the Annual Dinner. As we had not held the Beginners' or Improvers' Courses or an Annual Dinner in 2021 but were able to hold all of these in 2022, costs were significantly higher than in 2021. However, the

additional income from holding these courses and the Annual Dinner resulted in a positive contribution in 2022, compared to 2021 when there was no specific income to allocate against the cost of the talks programme.

- c. Products for sale. Because we were able to attend some events this year, we made donations to the organisations hosting them and also purchased some members' honey for sale at them. This category also includes c. £900 of costs for the Honey Show, which returned triumphantly in 2022.
- d. Running the Association's apiaries. The total cost of running the Association's apiaries at Bourn, Impington and Wandlebury, together with related capital expenditure, was lower than 2021 when we purchased the apiary monitoring system for Impington. The Association's apiary managers and their teams do a wonderful job of managing the apiaries and supporting the teaching and training that CBKA do. I would like to thank them all for their hard work once again in 2022.
- e. Running the Association. A significant proportion of the costs of running the Association are printing and postage, including this Yearbook. These have been falling for a number of years as communication has moved online – with a corresponding increase in website and related costs. As noted above, GiftAid currently funds these activities, and the Committee constantly seeks to minimise the administrative costs of the Association.
- f. Research grants. The Association donated £4,000 to Newcastle University to fund specific research on EFB, which continues to impact many members around Cambridge. The Committee is currently reviewing applications for research funding for 2023 and beyond.

Reserves

The surplus for the year has increased the Association's reserves to c. £79,000. The majority of the Association's assets are held in cash, and the closing cash balance was c. £80,000. The Committee's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to protect the Association from potential reductions in its future income, whilst also generating the initial funding that would be required to establish a centre of excellence for beekeeping in the Cambridge area. The

level of reserves is reviewed regularly by the Committee to ensure that they are adequate, but not excessive, for the Association's current and forecast activities, whilst noting that the costs of a centre of excellence cannot be estimated reliably until a suitable location has been identified and additional funding may be required in future to realise this longer-term ambition.

Outlook for 2023

The Association's budget for 2023 indicates that the recent level of income will be maintained, as we plan to run the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses this year, together with the One-Day Seminar in the spring, and the number of members is expected to be consistent with 2022. However, costs are expected to increase as inflation impacts all parts of the economy and the Committee therefore expects a more modest surplus, if any, for the year as a whole. The Association is fortunate that it has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

Peter Connor, CBKA Treasurer

CBKA contacts

Chairman: Paul Schofield 01487 740724
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Vice-Chairman: Doug Brown 01480 214640
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Secretary: Susan Wilkie susan.wilkie@cbka.org.uk

Treasurer: Peter Connor peter.connor@cbka.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Martin Kendall
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Editor: Peter Bates 01799 530537
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Committee

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Alison Goodfellow alison.goodfellow@cbka.org.uk

John Hall john.hall@cbka.org.uk

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Roy Cross 01223 514424

Apiary Manager (Wandlebury):

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Apiary Manager (Bourn):

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Beginners' Course Coordinator:

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Education Secretary:

Barny Henderson barny@henderson1.plus.com

Event & Helper Coordinator:

Hazel Bickle 07753 253623
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External Talks Coordinator:

Paul Schofield 01487 740724
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Honey Show

Secretary: Sandra Chapman
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Logistics and volunteers: Pam Fearn 01799 531916
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Librarian: Alison Goodfellow 01954 210650
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One-Day Meeting and Talks Coordinators:

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Sally Knowles 07803 031300
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Wandlebury Equipment Loan:

Bill Clark 01223 212902

Stephen Poyser 01223 840370

Webmaster: Martin Kendall

webmaster@cbka.org.uk

President: Bill Clark

Vice Presidents: MP for Cambridge City, Director of the University Botanic Garden, the Bishop of Ely, the Chief Executive Cambridge PPF.

National, Regional & Seasonal Bee Inspectors

Head of National Bee Unit: Julian Parker
0300 3030094; julian.parker@apha.gov.uk

BeeBase Manager: Adam Parker
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National Bee Inspector: Dhonn Atkinson
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SBI (P'boro & Cambs): Jack Silberrad
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SBI (East Herts & Essex): David Burns
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SBI (West Herts & Beds): Peter Folge 01438 816211

SBI (Suffolk & Cambs): Ian Nichols 07557 178416

For a full, up-to-date list of Bee Inspectors, look at BeeBase: <http://tinyurl.com/cxsr8bu>



CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total
		£	£	£
INCOME				
	<i>From members</i>			
	Subscriptions	14,158		14,158
	Donations	659	916	1,575
	CBKA Newsletter	-		-
	<i>Amounts collected from members for CBKA activities</i>	<u>14,817</u>	<u>916</u>	<u>15,733</u>
	Additional BDI cover requested by members	590		590
	Members' subscriptions to Beekeepers' Quarterly	<u>400</u>		<u>400</u>
	Total amounts collected from members	15,807	916	16,723
	<i>From educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	4,393		4,393
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	625		625
	One Day Seminar	-		-
	Other courses and events	<u>1,380</u>		<u>1,380</u>
		6,398	-	6,398
	<i>From sale of products</i>			
	Honey (on behalf of members)	638		638
	Honey (from CBKA hives)	2,871		2,871
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	<u>1,067</u>		<u>1,067</u>
		4,576	-	4,576
	<i>Other income, including GiftAid</i>	1,915	118	2,033
	Total income	<u>28,696</u>	<u>1,034</u>	<u>29,730</u>
EXPENDITURE				
	<i>On behalf of members</i>			
	BBKA membership	(9,794)		(9,794)
	Bee Disease Insurance	(1,468)		(1,468)
	Beekeepers' Quarterly	<u>(400)</u>		<u>(400)</u>
		(11,662)	-	(11,662)
	<i>On educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	(1,478)		(1,478)
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	(328)		(328)
	One Day Seminar	-		-
	Other talks, courses and events	<u>(2,641)</u>		<u>(2,641)</u>
		(4,447)	-	(4,447)
	<i>On products for sale</i>			
	Honey from members	(510)		(510)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(164)		(164)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	(100)		(100)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	(929)		(929)
	Cost of attending third party events	<u>(317)</u>		<u>(317)</u>
		(2,020)	-	(2,020)
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>			
	Maintenance	(2,276)		(2,276)
	Capital expenditure	-		-
		(2,276)	-	(2,276)
	<i>On running the Association</i>			
	Insurance	(470)		(470)
	Printing and stationary	(745)		(745)
	Room hire	(179)		(179)
	Other costs	<u>(884)</u>		<u>(884)</u>
		(2,278)	-	(2,278)
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	(4,000)	(4,000)
	Total expenditure	<u>(22,683)</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>(26,683)</u>
NET INCOME		<u>6,013</u>	<u>(2,966)</u>	<u>3,047</u>
				<u>5,011</u>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
(Registered charity No. 1183601)



FOUNDED 1881 • REG CHARITY 1183601

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges	330		57	
	Jars and other packaging for honey	453		271	
	Stock of Polo Shirts	135		157	
	Wax for processing	-		-	
	Stock of Try-A-Hives	-		-	
	Manuals for beginners	18		113	
			936		598
Receivables	Prepaid expenses	-		-	
	GiftAid receivable	2,022		-	
	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150		150	
			2,172		150
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	66,223		73,036	
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	10,530		10,524	
	Float for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	374		-	
			77,127		83,560
Total assets			80,235		84,308
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	-		(19)	
	BDI paid in advance	-		(2)	
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	(60)		(200)	
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	(90)		(7,095)	
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-	
	Membership subscriptions paid in advance	(50)		(29)	
	Provision for possible charge for Wandlebury	-		-	
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)	
	Other accruals	(746)		(721)	
			(966)		(8,086)
Net assets			79,269		76,222
Represented by					
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	70,411		66,029	
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	6,013		4,382	
	At the end of the year		76,424		70,411
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	5,811		5,182	
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	1,034		1,629	
	Grants made during the year	(4,000)		(1,000)	
	At the end of the year		2,845		5,811
Total Funds			79,269		76,222

Note to the Accounts.

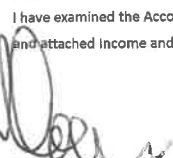
CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses, the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2022, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly.

Apiary shed - Wandlebury	£7,792	£7,640
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£4,972	£4,874
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£40,403	£39,611
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI) - at each location	£9,324	£9,141
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£19,543	£19,160


Peter Connor
Hon. Treasurer

Auditor

I have examined the Accounts of Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2022.


Mr M Cooper
17 March 2023



CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total
		£	£	£
INCOME				Total
				£
	<i>From members</i>			
	Subscriptions	14,158		14,158
	Donations	659	916	1,575
	CBKA Newsletter	-		-
	<i>Amounts collected from members for CBKA activities</i>	14,817	916	15,733
	Additional BDI cover requested by members	590		590
	Members' subscriptions to Beekeepers' Quarterly	400		400
	Total amounts collected from members	15,807	916	16,723
	<i>From educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	4,393		4,393
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	625		625
	One Day Seminar	-		-
	Other courses and events	1,380		1,380
		6,398	-	6,398
	<i>From sale of products</i>			
	Honey (on behalf of members)	638		638
	Honey (from CBKA hives)	2,871		2,871
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	1,067		1,067
		4,576	-	4,576
	<i>Other income, including GiftAid</i>	1,915	118	2,033
	Total income	28,696	1,034	29,730
EXPENDITURE				
	<i>On behalf of members</i>			
	BBKA membership	(9,794)		(9,794)
	Bee Disease Insurance	(1,468)		(1,468)
	Beekeepers' Quarterly	(400)		(400)
		(11,662)	-	(11,662)
	<i>On educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	(1,478)		(1,478)
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	(328)		(328)
	One Day Seminar	-		-
	Other talks, courses and events	(2,641)		(2,641)
		(4,447)	-	(4,447)
	<i>On products for sale</i>			
	Honey from members	(510)		(510)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(164)		(164)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	(100)		(100)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	(929)		(929)
	Cost of attending third party events	(317)		(317)
		(2,020)	-	(2,020)
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>			
	Maintenance	(2,276)		(2,276)
	Capital expenditure	-		-
		(2,276)	-	(2,276)
	<i>On running the Association</i>			
	Insurance	(470)		(470)
	Printing and stationary	(745)		(745)
	Room hire	(179)		(179)
	Other costs	(884)		(884)
		(2,278)	-	(2,278)
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	(4,000)	(4,000)
	Total expenditure	(22,683)	(4,000)	(26,683)
NET INCOME		6,013	(2,966)	3,047

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
(Registered charity No. 1183601)



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges	330		57	
	Jars and other packaging for honey	453		271	
	Stock of Polo Shirts	135		157	
	Wax for processing	-		-	
	Stock of Try-A-Hives	-		-	
	Manuals for beginners	18		113	
			936		598
Receivables	Prepaid expenses	-		-	
	GiftAid receivable	2,022		-	
	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150		150	
			2,172		150
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	66,223		73,036	
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	10,530		10,524	
	Float for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	374		-	
			77,127		83,560
Total assets			80,235		84,308
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	-		(19)	
	BDI paid in advance	-		(2)	
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	(60)		(200)	
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	(90)		(7,095)	
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-	
	Membership subscriptions paid in advance	(50)		(29)	
	Provision for possible charge for Wandlebury	-		-	
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)	
	Other accruals	(746)		(721)	
			(966)		(8,086)
Net assets			79,269		76,222
Represented by					
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	70,411		66,029	
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	6,013		4,382	
	At the end of the year		76,424		70,411
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	5,811		5,182	
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	1,034		1,629	
	Grants made during the year	(4,000)		(1,000)	
	At the end of the year		2,845		5,811
Total Funds			79,269		76,222

Note to the Accounts.

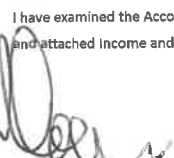
CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses, the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2022, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly.

Apiary shed - Wandlebury	£7,792	£7,640
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£4,972	£4,874
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£40,403	£39,611
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI) - at each location	£9,324	£9,141
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£19,543	£19,160


Peter Connor
Hon. Treasurer

Auditor

I have examined the Accounts of Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2022.


Mr M Cooper
17 March 2023

Accounts

CBKA Yearbook 2021



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Editor's report

THIS YEARBOOK CONTAINS the CBKA reports for 2021, and is again somewhat shorter than usual due to the effects of Covid-19. Sadly, we heard that John Witter died in September and there is a Tribute to him in this yearbook; John was a member for many years, doing a huge amount of work on behalf of CBKA, and will be greatly missed. There are no Annual General Meeting minutes again for the year since it was again postponed, with very few people willing to meet in-person in 2021; however, an online meeting is now being planned for April. The Committee members remained in place and continued to work on behalf of the CBKA. Because of the on-going pandemic, other in-person meetings, training sessions, assessments, and the honey show had to be cancelled for 2021. There were, however a few outside events that CBKA were able to attend later in the year, which were very successful for sales and talking with the public. There were a large number of on-line talks, thanks to the outstanding organisation of Sally and her team; these were all excellent and attracted large audiences, including a lot of people from around the country and from overseas, with many of these joining as associate members. Towards the end of the year Sally also organised monthly get-togethers in various pubs around the county, which have been enthusiastically attended and will continue for the foreseeable future; so I hope to see some of you at these events.

I am again pleased to have continued serving as CBKA editor, including editing and sending out the e-bulletins. However, there have been disappointingly few CBKA News articles sent in during the year, insufficient even for one issue. Therefore, I would ask once again that if you have any possible contributions for CBKA News, please send them to me. They can be any length and on any topic, so long as it at least vaguely relates to bees or beekeeping. Any reports on any of the online talks would be good, since not everyone gets to attend them; recordings of the talks are on the website, so you can go back and listen again to make it easier to write, and I am always happy to check, edit or even help to write an article.

With our own beekeeping, Pam and I started 2021 with six hives going through winter, but lost one where the queen failed to build up in spring. I was going to split a couple of hives, but three swarmed before I could and I

managed to collect them. However, two of the swarms just never built up, despite all seeming okay over several weeks, so we remained with six hives. Honey production was erratic, with some hives producing large amounts and others very little, and the final honey crop was only average and lower than the previous year. We have again left a super full of honey/sugar syrup as brood and a half in each hive, with Candipolline Gold above the crown board on all, and all six seem to be going through the winter well. The only slight problem is mice, which set up home in the top of one hive, and have been eating the Candipolline in two hives; had to take the Candipolline out of one and leave the top open for a few dry days in the other, which seems to have cleared the problem.

Despite lockdown, insects are unaffected and we need to guard against Asian hornets again. Also, Bee Inspectors can continue inspections, with social distancing, so if you think you have infection problems in any of your hives do continue to contact them for advice. Here's hoping that lockdown conditions improve as we go through the year and I wish you all well and that you have a successful 2021 season with your bees.

Peter Bates

Chair's Report

DESPITE 2021 BEING another year dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, it was nevertheless a busy year for the Committee and beekeeping. In my report I will summarise key activities and events undertaken by your CBKA Committee members and volunteers.

I wish to start by paying respect to two long-standing and important contributors to the Cambridge beekeeping community, Professor Sir Peter Lachmann and Mr John Witter. Sir Peter died aged 89 on Boxing Day 2020. He was an eminent clinical immunologist, Fellow and 'keeper of bees' at Christ's College for several years. He provided many talks on his expertise in allergy and desensitisation to bee stings. In September 2021, John Witter died suddenly and this came as a shock, both to those of us on the Committee who knew him and to those in the Cambridge beekeeping community. John was a longstanding CBKA Committee member, and a recipient of honorary CBKA membership in recognition of his many contributions (see Tribute in the following report).

Throughout 2021 I have been delighted and honoured to Chair the Committee. Here again I wish to recognise and thank each and every one of them for their selfless contributions, enthusiasm and support to further all things beekeeping! A major contribution to CBKA in 2021 has been the development and launch of the brand new CBKA website, expertly led by our IT expert Martin Kendall. The site has taken a huge amount of time and includes a feature to easily join the CBKA online, using an electronic payment system, removing the need for paper applications and posting. This really helps our membership secretary Liz Cox, and I would like to thank her here too for her support and contributions throughout 2021.

I would also like to thank Jonathan Baynes who, in mid-2021, stepped down after five years as our local Seasonal Bee Inspector, and BIG apiary manager at Bourn. He continues to support CBKA with the bulk purchase of honey jars for the membership. Related to this, I am pleased to report that Colin Bell has stepped forward to taking up the management of the Bourn apiary from Jonathan and we wish him every success. Thanks also to Sarah Irons who stepped down after many years as librarian for the CBKA collection and archive at Cambridge Central Library. I welcome and thank Alison (Lal) Goodfellow for volunteering as the new librarian. Without volunteers there

would be no CBKA. Yet again I want to use this opportunity to encourage members to step forward if you feel that you could help with the running of your association.

The association has grown significantly in its membership in 2021, especially through our international associate members. Here, I thank you members from around the globe for your support and attendance at the virtual online education programme organised by Sally Knowles and her team. Sally and her team do a tremendous job in identifying speakers, topics and the Zoom calls, and another big thank you to them for this excellent on-going series.

January 2021 brought a change to several previously face-to-face meetings, moving either to an online platform, or their cancellation. The Beginners' Course was sadly cancelled, although plans were made to hold practical sessions at the Impington and Wandlebury apiaries for the 2020 intake of beginner beekeepers. The CBKA Annual General Meeting, planned for March unfortunately had to be cancelled in view of the on-going Covid-19 restrictions. The March One-Day seminar was also cancelled. The month of January was also dominated by debate and discussion surrounding the UK Government's derogation of the use of a neonicotinoid (thiomethoxam) following pressure from sugar beet growers. They argued that this was needed to protect their crop from being destroyed by aphids carrying the virus yellows disease. At the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (attended by Doug Brown and myself to represent CBKA) there was overwhelming majority vote to lobby the government to overturn this derogation order, asking for more details on the scientific justification. In the end, there was no need to use thiomethoxam due to the low aphid infestation rate, but pressure is still needed in case of future derogation orders.

Other highlights from January included CBKA joined the Cambridge Conservation Forum, and work began on a new research proposal to investigate European Foul Brood issues in Cambridgeshire, led by new Committee member Philip Turon. The CBKA Committee agreed to use its dedicated research funds, matched by Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd, to support a research student with oversight by Professor Giles Budge at Newcastle University. Look out for further information in future newsletters and bulletins

In February, the BBKA announced that their annual Spring Convention

scheduled for April would be held online rather than at the Harper Adams University campus near Telford, Shropshire. In June, Sally Knowles proposed an excellent idea to hold small informal pub meetings around several localities around Cambridgeshire. These have been hosted by committee members and other CBKA volunteers and are proving to be very popular to share beekeeping top-tips and guidance.

In May and June, about 45 new beekeepers were provided with their hands-on practical sessions at Impington and Wandlebury apiaries, delayed from 2020 due to lockdown. Thanks here to the apiary managers – Bill Block and Roy Cross at Impington and Stephen Poyser at Wandlebury. I also want to thank other CBKA volunteers for helping out with hosting these sessions, which were very well received and a key part of an introduction to beekeeping.

At the end of July, I was pleased to forget about the pandemic for the day and support our CBKA stall at the Ely Cathedral Green fair. We explained beekeeping to interested members of the public, whilst selling lots of delicious CBKA local honey. The observation hive is always a popular attraction to the stall, whether to children or adults. I offer here again my thanks for the support from several volunteers, and to our events organiser, Hazel Bickle.

You may know from previous CBKA communications that we have an ambition to own our own teaching apiary and facility in the Cambridge area. We are always on the lookout for available land on which this could be possible. A small sub-committee, chaired by Doug Brown, leads this activity. In August, Doug became aware of a potential site in collaboration with the Anglian Water Authority. They announced a proposal to relocate their sewage water treatment site from Cowley Road to a new site in North East Cambridge. This could be an opportunity to incorporate a Teaching apiary at this new site. Therefore, Doug Brown led a proposal and this was submitted to Anglian Water Authority; we await further news on developments in 2022.

Unfortunately, another casualty of the Covid-19 lockdown was the cancellation of the Quy country fair, at which the CBKA would normally host a marquee to hold its annual honey show at the end of August. We are hoping that this may return in 2022, and will keep the membership informed.

In September, Stephen Poyser organised a taster session for prospective beekeepers at Chesterton College on Gilbert Road. This was very well

attended and strongly supported by several Committee members and CBKA Volunteers. The session is provided to deliver a clear explanation and overview of what is involved in beekeeping, so that the attendees can make a more informed decision whether they wish to proceed to apply to join the ever-popular Beginner's Course (due to start in January 2022). Around 180 people registered their interest in the course, culminating in 87 signing-up to attend the course.

In October, we were delighted to receive a generous donation from the Harris Family Charitable Trust and this has been used to purchase remote hive-monitoring equipment for three hives at the Impington apiary, managed by Bill Block and Roy Cross. Doug Brown has led on this project and I want to recognise and thank him here for this. As I write this report, we are in the testing phase of the installed equipment and it is our intention to provide a link on the CBKA website, accompanied by explanation and interpretation of the data generated from the hives throughout the coming 2022 season.

As the 2022 season drew to a close, with readying the hives for the winter break and cleaning and maintaining equipment, I had time to reflect again on lessons learnt, successes and failures of my own hives in my Earith garden. For me, it was a very productive season, with lots of bees and lots of honey! My addiction to beekeeping continues and I close my report by once again thanking especially the Committee members, and all others of you who have volunteered. I look forward to meeting many of you in 2022, both new and established beekeepers, and encourage you to take every opportunity to share your expertise as well as your problems and pitfalls to further advance this fascinating hobby.

Dr J Paul Schofield

Membership Report

ANOTHER VERY DIFFICULT year for everyone. However, once again this has not affected our membership numbers, which are higher than they have been for some time. Below are the figures for 2021, with the comparative figures for 2019 and 2020.

Year	Ordinary	Associate	Honorary	Partner	Companion	Junior	Total
2021	372	168	4	60	21	15	640
2020	446	29	5	64	23	19	586
2019	402	28	6	61	22	19	538

Although we did experience an anticipated reduction in our Ordinary membership, because we were unable to run a Beginners Course in 2021, this has been more than offset by the large increase in Associate members. Our fantastic online talks programme has been received enthusiastically around the world and many attendees have taken out Associate membership.

The BBKA subscription rates changed on 1 October 2021 from £19 to £21 + £2 basic BDI for Ordinary members and from £12.50 to £13.50 for Partner members. The Committee agreed to absorb half of this rise and consequently the total payment due for 2022 is £29 for Ordinary members and £16 for Partner members. The respective remainder of £6 and £2.50 is for membership of CBKA.

Martin Kendall has revamped the CBKA website and there is now an online application form that allows payment via PayPal, automatically generating a receipt. Members are able to print out the Wandlebury Car Park permit and a membership card if they so wish. Although it has not been possible to totally replicate the old system, it is more than adequate and, because it is based on Wordpress, will be easier to maintain in future. It is saving time, resources and postage. Setting it up has involved a huge amount of work by Martin, but is working well and has proved popular amongst the membership.

As we move to this new system, the old database will eventually be retired. I would like to acknowledge the enormous debt CBKA owe to John Rayner, who set up the original membership system many years ago, and thank him for his valuable assistance to me over my years as Membership Secretary.

I have been Membership Secretary since 2015, so I need a rest and I shall be resigning as Membership Secretary at the forthcoming AGM.

Elizabeth Cox

John Witter

JOHN DIDN'T INTEND to become a beekeeper, but after Eleanor's father passed away, they brought two hives of bees from Gloucester to Hills Road, Cambridge. They started going to CBKA apiary meetings at Wandlebury in 1991 and then, feeling brave opened their own hives. The following spring they attended the CBKA Beginners Course which was given by Bob Lemon.

John had also been spotted by the then Treasurer Bob Elliott and, having taken early retirement, he was persuaded to become the next Treasurer in 1992, a position he then held until 2011. During this period John was also involved in restructuring the Beginners Course to such a degree that it was so highly thought of by other Associations that the syllabus and format were sent to adjoining Associations and the CBKA Course attracted prospective beekeepers from Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Northants and Bedfordshire.

For a period of at least 10 years John also dealt with the organisation, purchase and transportation of up to 60 hives a year and subsequently helped beginners to construct them as part of the Beginners Course. The construction of the hives was carried out in a number of locations including Wandlebury, the Scout Headquarters on Perne Road and John's own garage and garden. He also assisted in the construction of the "Bee Shed" at Wandlebury and the robust construction has allowed it to continue with minimal maintenance for over 20 years.

His main activity for 19 years was the CBKA, where he did the accounts for both the CBKA and its trading arm Cambridgeshire Apiaries. All of the CBKA book-keeping was in ledgers, so that kept him pretty busy. He was instrumental in acquiring and fitting out the trailer, which became the sales stall used at events for many years. He sourced the honey, wax and numerous other items which were sold at events and organised the volunteers to man the trailer, as well as being at many of the events himself.

John was not keen on handling combs of bees, but was happy to be involved and deal with the heavy lifting, mending, cleaning boxes and frames, extracting and processing wax and honey, and ultimately eating honey. Beekeeping (essentially the CBKA) became an all-consuming hobby for John until he and Eleanor stopped keeping bees in 2010, but he maintained an active interest in the running and organisation of the CBKA.

There is no doubt that he has left a lasting mark on the CBKA and its operations, the current state of the organisation is in no small amount due to the input he made to its development and the publicity it gained as a result of its appearance at shows, fetes and events in Cambridgeshire.

Eleanor Witter and Stephen Poyser

Beginners and Beyond

AS A RESULT of Covid-19, the 2021 Beginners Course was cancelled because it did not seem feasible to run the course through Zoom or an equivalent system; the tutors are generally not professional teachers and the 2020 course showed us that the most valuable parts of the course are the practical sessions where the theory is shown in its true light. It was also deemed not possible to hold practical sessions for the 2020 course in addition to another course in 2021, and so it was agreed to try to conclude the 2020 course before starting a further course.

This resulted in a carry-forward of a significant number of prospective attendees to the 2022 course, with the anticipation that it would be able to start in early January, assuming we are allowed to do so!!! We were, however, able to hold the practical sessions for the 2020 course during the late spring and early summer of 2021. Although not everyone who undertook the theory sessions was able to attend the practical sessions, there were enough of them to make the exercise worthwhile.

During 2021, additional names were added to the list of prospective attendees for the 2022 course, resulting in a total of 182 on the list. In an effort to ensure we only had seriously interested people on the 2022 course, an “Introductory Session” was held in September and this, together with the passage of time after some had originally contacted us, meant that we have been able to accept all those who wanted to come on the course – we have a full course of just under 90 students ready for 2022.

Many thanks to all the people who assisted in the aspects of the completed part of the 2020 course and the preparation for the 2022 course, which included IT expertise, manhandling chairs and PA equipment and the giving of lectures. More help will be required in 2022 in providing nucleus colonies

of bees and giving both time and expertise with the practical sessions. Therefore, please let me know if you are willing to be involved in any of these, otherwise I will be forced to contact the faithful regulars, who I know want to share the roles wider.

Although it is repetition, I want to emphasise yet again that this year has shown how vital it is for beginners to obtain practical training. Therefore, when you are joining the CBKA please seriously consider offering to help a beginner or let me know you are willing to be a bee buddy. Otherwise some beginners will flounder with the hobby and will either give up or keep bees in a way that could potentially cause problems for other beekeepers in their area.

Stephen Poyser, Beginners Course Coordinator

Wandlebury Apiary Report

THE 8 COLONIES taken into the winter at the end of 2020 comprised: 6 in National brood boxes (including 1 with a super on as a brood and a half), 1 in a Dartington hive and 1 in a National 14 x 12 brood box. The winter was uneventful, although I was able to treat the hives with oxalic acid to reduce the level of varroa before the bees started to produce any brood. One of the National hives dwindled away in the early spring (even though it had more than 10 kg of food stores), which was probably as a result of a failing queen; however, all of the other hives went through the 2020/21 winter in good condition.

All hives were treated with Apistan (a pyrethroid-based insert) in the autumn of 2021. During the winter of 2021/22 it is again intended to give the hives a treatment of oxalic acid (by the trickle method) if the weather permits, in an attempt to ensure the colonies start the year with as few varroa mites as possible; however, at the time of writing this, the weather forecast is to be over 16°C through the new year, so it may be a problem!!!

In the early spring of 2021, the colonies were fed fondant icing as an insurance against starvation, and Candipolline Gold as a pollen substitute to boost brood production. This again proved worthwhile as the colonies were strong by the late spring, and so it is intended to use Candipolline Gold again in the spring of 2022. We were able to use the apiary for the practical sessions for the 2020 beginners course members. However, Covid-19 prevented the

apiary being used for any practical apiary meetings (PAMs), examinations or the requirement for a stocked observation hive for use by the education team of wardens at Wandlebury.

During the summer, several colonies were split to prevent swarming, but no additional colonies were created because they were merged back together in the autumn. We did lose one colony during the summer, but had collected two swarms from Shelford, so again ended the year with 8 hives: 6 in National brood boxes (including 1 as double brood as a result of amalgamation), 1 in a Dartington hive and 1 in a National 14 x 12 brood box.

European foul brood (EFB) was again found to the south of Cambridge in the summer, which resulted in the hives needing to be checked by the Seasonal Bee Inspector, but I am pleased to report that no EFB was found. As a result of a combination of early flowering ivy and me being a little late with feeding the hives, they all collected a huge amount of ivy honey during the autumn. However, they were still fed syrup, and given mouse guards and woodpecker protection before winter. A check on the weight of the hives will be carried out at regular intervals during the winter and, if required, packs of fondant icing will be added. If the colonies are of sufficient strength, it is intended to split some of them and re-stock the WBC hive, whilst ensuring there are enough good colonies for beginners to carry out inspections and manipulations.

The apiary again had a productive year and 19 supers were removed, which are expected to yield in the region of 450 lb of honey that will be sold to supplement the CBKA's bank account. Cambridge Past, Present and Future, our landlords, are intending to undertake some work around the shed and apiary during early 2022, so you will notice the removal of some trees and the reduction in size of others; this work is being undertaken as a result of ash die-back disease.

If normality resumes, we can meet freely again in 2022 and if you wish to be involved in helping with the Wandlebury apiary please contact me. I again intend to use the time for a combination of sharing information and spreading the load of looking after the CBKA interests at Wandlebury, while enjoying beekeeping.

Stephen Poyser, Wandlebury Apiary Manager

Impington Apiary Report

AFTER COLONY LOSSES in 2020, from European foul brood (EFB) and failing queens, 2021 was a year of recovery, with 7 colonies prepared for winter. The colonies had been well fed with syrup in autumn 2020 and homemade candy or Candipolline blocks were put on lighter hives in the New Year. One small colony died over winter, but six survived and had laying queens when fully inspected in early April 2021.

The apiary had several cases of EFB in 2019 and 2020, so we were greatly relieved that the apiary was clear of foul brood when inspected by Jonathan Baynes (SBI) on the 2 April 2021. Later in the year, we were concerned about some suspicious looking larvae in 4 colonies, but this was thought to be Sac brood and varroa damage because again, no foul brood was found by Jack Silberrad (SBI) on the 8 August. Hopefully the apiary is now free of EFB, but we will remain vigilant and regularly carry out disease inspections.

Several colonies produced queen cells in April and these were artificially swarmed to increase the number of colonies at the apiary. Unfortunately, April was very cold, with some night-time frosts, and split colonies were very slow to build up and draw out new foundation. May had several days of rain and this may have prevented virgin queens from mating well, as some were later found to be drone laying queens. The slow build-up of the colonies was reflected in the poor honey yield of only 120lb from 8 productive hives; the best colony only produced about 28lbs of honey. Previously the Bedlam apiary had considerably more honey as shown below.

Year	Productive hives	Honey yield (lb)	Yield per productive hive (lb)
2016	10	300	30
2017	8-9	410	45
2018	7	320	45
2019	8	420	52
2020	6	160	27
2021	8	120	15

There were some very productive colonies at the apiary in 2017-19, but the queens and their genetic lines were partly culled when EFB colonies were destroyed in 2019 and 2020. This has left the apiary with only two queen lines of less productive colonies and we may introduce or buy in new queens to improve the genetic stock in 2022.

Practical training sessions could not be held in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Some of these control measures were eased in 2021, and in late May and June, the 2020 Beginners Course members were invited to Bedlam in three groups for three evening training sessions – nine sessions altogether. For the first few sessions, we were rather short of good CBKA colonies to demonstrate to beginners and so some of Bill Block's hives were used until queens started to lay and brood developed. Groups were kept small, with no more than 3 beginners around each hive to ensure social distancing.

Three trial runs of queen rearing using grafting were undertaken to test the technique during 2021. These trials were too late in the season for raising queens, but it was a useful practice. It is planned to continue to rear queens from good stock during the coming season.

The apiary is nicely sheltered on the north, west and east sides, but open to agricultural land and prevailing winds from the southwest. In order to provide more shelter on the southern boundary of the apiary, we obtained a grant from the Woodland Trust to plant a hedge across the width of the site. The Trust provided a hedge planting pack of five species (hawthorn, dogwood, hazel, crab apple and dog rose) for free, which enabled a 14m x 0.5m hedge to be planted in November. Work parties, which included Peter Dawson and May Block, cultivated and planted the 30 saplings, complete with compost, a weed suppressing membrane and tree guards. We hope for a good establishment!

A hive monitoring project was begun at the apiary during the current winter, with the generous help of a donation from The Harris Family Trust to the CBKA. The equipment includes in-hive sensors to monitor temperature and humidity in three hives, external bar scales to measure changes in hive weights and an external gateway unit (this unit also provides acoustic data if placed above a hive entrance). The gateway collects data wirelessly from the hive sensors and bar scales and transmits it to the cloud computer for analysis. Data and graphs are available via a user interface and it is planned, in due course, to stream these to the Association website for members to

see – further details will be publicised when available. Establishment and initial operation of the system has not been without glitches, but it is already providing information on conditions within the hives during winter and hopefully informative data on colony activity during the coming summer. The supplier of this Arnia system is Agrisound, based in York. We thank Doug Brown for his invaluable help and advice during the initiation of this exciting project.

Twelve hives were treated with Apiguard, as soon as the honey supers were taken off on 28 August, and syrup was fed from the first week of September. We hope all will go through the winter successfully.

The apiary managers would like to thank Steve Smith and Paul Schofield, who helped with the training sessions, and many thanks must go to Peter Dawson who has helped with regular inspections and maintenance work during the season. The Association again remains grateful to Chivers Farms Ltd for their continued support of the apiary at Bedlam Farm, Impington.

Roy Cross & Bill Block, Impington Apiary Managers

Bourn Apiary Report

SADLY, FOR A second year due to Covid-19 restrictions, no Queen Rearing took place at Bourn in 2021. Michael Wilton-Cox and I have built up the apiary to seven colonies and four Nucs going into the winter of 2021. This will give a good opportunity to try a number of different techniques for raising queens in the coming year.

We produced a few pounds of honey and I am pleased to say none of which had the nasty 'farmyard' taste we had experienced in 2020. Although several experts declared the 2020 honey to taste of buckwheat (and having tried some genuine buckwheat honey myself, it was certainly like it) the results of the sample sent to the UK Honey Monitoring Laboratory showed it contained: bramble 43%, garden radish 37%, radish 14%, borage 1%, bristly oxtongue 1% and a further 8 plants at trace levels, but no sign of buckwheat. So the source of the strange taste remains a mystery. If you have not used the UK Honey Monitoring service, I recommend it to you. The service is free and you get a detailed analysis of the plants from which your bees have been supping their nectar.

After looking after the Bee Improvement Group (BIG) for several years, I have decided it is time to move on to other things and for someone else to take the reins. I am delighted to say that Colin Bell has agreed to take on the role of apiary manager at Bourn. I am very grateful for the support from the members of BIG over the years and am sure they will continue to provide the same for Colin.

Jonathan Baynes

CBKA Equipment Use

RECORDED BORROWING OF CBKA equipment from the Wandlebury bee-shed for the period 2013 through 2021 is shown below. This is not a comprehensive list, as some items were borrowed without being signed out and some were out for many months as a single booking (e.g. virtual hive for events and series of talks in previous years).

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2107	2018	2019	2020	2021
Extractors	86	119	85	79	106	79	65	85	60
Pratley trays	53	55	34	39	52	39	35	38	22
Honey tanks	11	27	13	24	25	18	13	17	15
Wax melter	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Easi-steam	3	1	0	0	10	1	4	1	2
Virtual hive	-	7	2	7	9	5	7	0	1
Creamer-paddle	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0
Candle moulds	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	0
Apimelter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7

In addition to the items listed above, do not forget that the CBKA have filters, an electric uncapping knife, an uncapping tray and wax processing equipment, including a solar wax extractor, which can be borrowed if required. The records above show that Covid-19 had an impact on the use of the virtual hive for 2020 and 2021, and either Covid or a poor year for honey had dramatic effect on the use of extractors and Pratley trays. As a result of generous donations by former members, in 2021 we have acquired an additional extractor and several other items of equipment for use in the apiaries or for passing on to members of the CBKA.

When you borrow a Pratley tray it is essential that you take the correct electric lead, as there are 3 different leads; otherwise, you will have had a wasted journey. When returning the Pratley tray please ensure the electric lead, wax filter and the uncapping board are also returned. If, whilst you are borrowing an item, you find that something is broken or breaks when you are using it, please inform us so that repairs can be implemented before somebody else takes the item out only to find they have had a wasted journey.

Regrettably, when the equipment has been returned the cleanliness of some of it still leaves something to be desired. Please make sure you return all equipment in a state you would want to find it, and return it a.s.a.p. after you have used it, because you can be certain other members want to borrow it at the same time as you do.

The access track to the bee-shed has a gate and chain, and the CBKA has fitted a combination padlock to the Wandlebury Wardens' padlock, so please link our padlock through the chain and the Wardens' padlock when leaving the site, to enable both the CBKA members and the Wardens to use the track. Note that the bee-shed is fitted with movement sensors to switch the lights on and off, so do not try to find a switch to turn the lights off when you leave, and do please make sure you lock the bee-shed door.

In an attempt to ensure only members of the CBKA use the equipment, when you contact us for the codes you may be kept waiting on the phone – even though we may recognise your name. This is so that we can check your membership details for the current year.

In order to borrow equipment you will require both the gate padlock code and the new door code; the door code will be changed again in early 2022. Please keep borrowed equipment for as short a time as possible (7 days as a maximum) because it is inconsiderate to other CBKA members for anyone to have equipment out for a long period of time.

Please ensure you book the equipment out and back in when appropriate, by putting details on the note-pad hanging adjacent to the extractors. Please write clearly and legibly because we need to know who you are. Please be considerate of other members if you borrow any equipment in 2022, and return things promptly and clean.

Stephen Poyser and Bill Clark, Wandlebury Equipment Coordinators

Passing the Baton – Seasonal Bee Inspector Report

MANY READERS, INCLUDING myself, will have been visited by Jonathan Baynes for hive inspections and learned some gem under his patient and knowledgeable watch. It brings me great pleasure, in taking over as the bee inspector for Cambridgeshire, to embody the best that Jonathan brought to his role and to continue in the same vein. Having retired from inspecting bees, Jonathan continues his keen practice of beekeeping and I dare say has a bit more time for his own bee-related ventures. He'll be missed from team meetings, though I am grateful to have had a genuinely dedicated and able tutor in my own role as Bee inspector for Cambridge and the surrounds.

As a Cambridge resident and fellow beekeeper, I have worked hard to ingratiate myself with the beekeeping community. My ethos in each visit is both to ensure excellent health of our stock and, crucially, to come as a friendly, approachable expert in our craft. Having managed hundreds of colonies commercially, in the UK and abroad, it brings me great pleasure to share my experience, work through challenges or queries raised, and leave beekeepers with a positive experience of the National Bee Unit Inspectorate. If you have not yet had an inspection from myself, I gladly welcome contact and queries, especially when I can readily put a beekeeper at ease or offer some insight that makes a concept of apiculture 'click'. Living in Cambridge as I do, I have been able to visit a great many of you and have seen hives in over 350 unique apiary visits in the last season, even as Covid-19 raged. Covering an area roughly as far north as the fringes of Peterborough and to the south to Saffron Walden and Caxton Gibbet toward Thetford, I have generally been impressed by the commitment to good apiculture in our beekeepers.

The first contact of many beekeepers last season will have been through a routine request to inspect by myself or others by an automatically-generated email warning of proximity to European foul brood (EFB). It is inevitable that, with greater scrutiny, the object of interest will be found more frequently; however, it cannot be overstated that Cambridgeshire, particularly Cambridge, is currently experiencing a serious peak in the incidence of EFB. As beekeepers, it is crucial we do our utmost to limit the spread and distribution of EFB. Furthermore, it is our lawful obligation to eradicate it where we can.

The good news is that this can be achieved easily by anyone with a few simple measures. Inspect your colonies, maintain strong stock, regularly clean your hive tool in washing soda, and wash your suit when it gets messy.

Swarms in particular carry a higher risk, as a colony with unknown provenance; house them on undrawn foundation and resist feeding for three days. EFB is transmitted in honey, carried in the crop of swarming bees – it is best put to use drawing comb, after which lavish your care upon your new stock as you please. Remember – swarms in the wild did not evolve to expect a well-meaning apiarist at the end of their journey – they will be OK!

The sale of swarms collected all over Cambridge, offered as nuclei at a premium to fledgling beekeepers, is reprehensible – look after your bee buddies, inspect any bees you are considering buying, and take an experienced friend with you. Do not buy bees you cannot inspect. There have been numerous cases of EFB in the Fens, Newmarket and Cambridge as the direct result of the sale of infected swarms under this guise. Last year, Norfolk reported the first case of EFB strain 37, which Jonathan originally worked hard to identify as once unique to Cambridge. Additionally, St Ives has seen EFB reappear, after being quiet for so long, whilst colonies North of Cambridge are refreshingly clear. Surveillance and diligence pay dividends.

To this end, I will enter 2022 with a renewed energy and motivation to see our incidence of EFB reduced. I want to reassure our members that EFB diagnosis is not a disaster, and it can happen to anyone. For those colonies in good condition and with enthusiastic beekeepers, shook swarms are a viable option for eradication. I am here at your service so that we may all keep healthy, productive bees, and I always welcome queries should you find something unusual in your hives. A quick phone call, or a photograph sent to jack.silberrad@apha.gov.uk might be all you need to confirm you really are looking at pollen (yes! it happens!) and not something less savoury. An EFB survey has been launched by Newcastle University in response to our outbreak and I encourage all to respond to it.

You can find me at the regular CBKA socials for an informal discussion. Keep an eye on your hives, and have an outstanding season in 2022. As I type the blackthorn is in full bloom dusting our hedges like snow drifts, and the willow catkins are about to burst. I look forward to catching up with you in person in due course. All the best until then!

Jack Silberrad – Seasonal Bee Inspector

Events Coordinator Report

HAVING NOT ATTENDED any events in 2020 as a result of Covid-19 regulations, it was gratifying to start the process of returning to normality by attending three events in the latter part of 2021. We were able to attend the Cambridge Past, Present and Future Open Day at Stourbridge Common, an event at Ely Cathedral and the Gransden Show. The public attended all of these events in numbers greater than expected and purchased honey in amounts far exceeding the anticipated volume, to such a degree that we were either very close to running out or ran out well before the event drew to a close.

These three events were very well received by the public and generated a significant amount of interest in beekeeping, together with sales of over £1,650 which was made up of:

• 1 lb liquid honey	118	1/2 lb liquid honey	53
• 1 lb set honey	40	Cut comb	18
• 3/4 lb liquid honey	63	Wax blocks	29
• 3/4 lb set honey	30		

As a result of not attending any events in 2020 and a very limited number of events in 2021 the CBKA had accumulated a significant amount of honey from the teaching apiaries. We were able to pass on some of it in tubs, which has resulted in sales of over £2,100 (at £3.50 / lb).

We are hopeful that a full programme of events will be achievable in 2022, so that the education of the public can once again return to normality. We will also, hopefully, be able to sell most of the honey we hold in stock in jars to the public.

Once again, thanks to all those who attended the events on behalf of the CBKA and were able to help educate the public and sow the seeds of beekeeping with the many children who came to our display and exhibit. Assuming we are allowed to attend events again in 2022, please offer to help if asked. It is definitely a rewarding experience and does give you the chance to talk freely with other beekeepers during the times when the public are not queuing up with interest.

Hazel Bickle and Stephen Poyser

Treasurer's Report

IN MY REPORT last year, I commented that I expected the full effect of the pandemic on the Association's finances would be felt in 2021 rather than 2020, with no Beginners' Course, a reduction in membership and limited prospects for attending shows and selling the Association's honey. Although those predictions came true, I am pleased to report that we are weathering the Covid-19 storms and the Association remains financially robust, with net income for the year substantially higher than expected of c. £5,000 and substantial reserves we can call upon if needed.

Summary of income and expenditure for 2021

The table overleaf summarises the income and expenditure in 2021 and 2020, categorised by each source of income and its associated costs, with further detail on each set out in the narrative below the table.

Income

The CBKA derives its income from the following sources:

- 1. Members' subscriptions and donations:** The largest source of the CBKA's income is subscriptions and donations. The total received from members, including amounts they paid for additional BDI insurance, the Beekeepers' Quarterly journal and donations towards research, was c. £16,500, down slightly from the previous year. With membership rates maintained at the same level as 2020, this reflected a reduction of 69 in the number of Ordinary members, primarily because there were no new members from a Beginners' Course this year, partly offset by an increase of 141 in Associate members, many of whom joined in appreciation of the online talks programme.
- 2. Educational activities:** The second largest source of income for the CBKA is its educational activities, comprising:
 - The Beginners' Course
 - The Improvers' Course
 - The One-Day Seminar
 - Other events, such as the Bee Disease Day, the annual coach trip and the Annual Dinner.

		2021			2020		
		Inc.	Exp.	Net inc.	Inc.	Exp.	Net inc.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1	From / on behalf of members	16,447	(9,977)	6,470	17,019	(11,388)	5,631
2	Educational activities	—	(2,129)	(2,129)	7,288	(5,827)	1,461
3	The sale of products	4,187	(655)	3,532	1,329	(36)	1,293
4	Other income, including GiftAid	3,173	-	3,173	4,514	-	4,514
5	Running the Association's apiaries	-	(2,795)	(2,795)	-	(2,470)	(2,470)
6	Running the Association	-	(2,240)	(2,240)	-	(2,243)	(2,243)
7	Grants to research organisations	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
		23,807	(18,796)	5,011	30,150	(22,694)	7,186

It is very regrettable that none of these could take place in 2021; not from a financial perspective, but because of the impact on the next generation of beekeepers. I very much hope that we will be able to resume this side of our activities during 2022. A successful “taster” course for prospective beekeepers was held in September and, as I write, the 90 places on the 2022 Beginners’ Course are nearly fully subscribed; it would be a shame if we had to defer once again.

3. The sale of products

It was with great satisfaction that we were able to attend some events as Covid-19 restrictions were eased over the summer. In addition to the sale of honey at these events, the Association also sold some bulk honey to several members.

4. Other income

The CBKA received c. £3,100 in GiftAid, a decrease on 2020 due to the lower membership subscriptions. GiftAid remains a very welcome supplement to the Association's income, and effectively funds the day-to-day administrative costs of running the Association. This enables the Committee to channel all of the income from members and the Association's other activities into its charitable activities. I therefore encourage all members who are able to take advantage of GiftAid to do so on their membership renewal forms.

In 2020, the Association received a very generous one-off donation of £1,000, which was used this year to purchase an apiary monitoring system.

Expenditure

Expenditure during the year related to:

1. On behalf of members:

The majority of the subscriptions paid by members is actually paid across to organisations such as the BBKA, BDI and Beekeepers' Quarterly. These costs were c. £1,400 lower than 2020, reflecting the decrease in the number of Ordinary members noted above.

2. Educational activities

Expenditure on educational activities normally relate primarily to room hire and speakers' fees for the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses and our talks programme, together with the cost of the annual coach trip, Bee Disease Day and Annual Dinner. Total costs were significantly lower than in 2020, because no in-person events were held this year. The talks programme was held exclusively online in 2021, and the cost of Zoom licences and higher speakers' fees meant that the overall cost of the talks programme in 2021 was c. £450 higher than in 2020. However, this was more than offset by the subscriptions of the additional Associate members who joined because of the successful talks programme.

3. Products for sale

As we were able to attend some events this year, we made donations to those organisations hosting them and also purchased some members' honey for sale at them. Last year's costs were simply those of some labels and jars for the Association's honey.

5. Running the Association's apiaries

The total cost of running the Association's apiaries at Bourn, Impington and Wandlebury, together with related capital expenditure, was down slightly on 2020. The most significant purchase was an apiary monitoring system for Impington, funded by a generous donation last year, and which will provide real-time information about three colonies. The Association's apiary managers and their teams do a wonderful job of managing the apiaries and supporting the teaching and training that we do. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work in 2021.

6. Running the Association

Half of the costs of running the Association are printing and postage, including this Yearbook. The other significant costs are insurance, and maintaining and improving the Association's website as online activity continues to increase.

7. Research grants

The CBKA donated the final £1,000 to the current "EARS" project. The Committee is currently reviewing applications for research funding for 2022 and beyond.

Reserves

The surplus for the year has increased the Association's reserves to c. £76,000. The majority of the Association's assets are held in cash, and the closing cash balance was c. £83,000. The Committee's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to protect the Association from potential reductions in its future income, whilst also generating the initial funding that would be required to establish a centre of excellence for beekeeping in the Cambridge area. The level of reserves is reviewed regularly by the Committee to ensure that they are adequate, but not excessive, for the Association's current and forecast activities, whilst noting that the costs of a centre of excellence cannot be estimated reliably until a suitable location has been identified and additional funding may be required in future to realise this longer-term ambition.

Outlook for 2022

The Association's budget for 2022 indicates that the recent level of income will be maintained because:

We plan to run the Beginners' Course and the Improvers' Courses this year,

although it was not possible to commit to holding the One-Day Seminar in the spring;

The number of members is expected to increase compared to 2021, because there will be new members joining for the Beginners' Course in 2021; and

We hope that more shows will be held this year, including the Annual Honey Show after a two year hiatus.

Even if these activities do not turn out to be possible, the Association is fortunate that it has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

Peter Connor, CBKA Treasurer

CBKA contacts

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Education Secretary:

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Event & Helper Coordinator:

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External Talks Coordinator:

Paul Schofield 01487 740724
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Honey Show

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Librarian: Alison Goodfellow 01954 210650
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President: Bill Clark

Vice Presidents: MP for Cambridge City, MP for North-East Cambridgeshire, Director of the University Botanic Garden, the Bishop of Ely, the Chief Executive, Cambridge PPF.

National, Regional & Seasonal Bee Inspectors

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07900 365721

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SBI (Suffolk & Cambs): Ian Nichols 07557 178416

For a full, up-to-date list of Bee Inspectors, look at BeeBase: <http://tinyurl.com/cxzs8bu>



CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		2021		2020
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total
		£	£	£
INCOME	<i>From members</i>			
	Subscriptions	12,594		12,594
	Donations	857	1,349	2,206
	CBKA Newsletter	240		240
	<i>Amounts collected from members for CBKA activities</i>	<u>13,691</u>	<u>1,349</u>	<u>15,040</u>
	Additional BDI cover requested by members	787		787
	Members' subscriptions to Beekeepers' Quarterly	<u>620</u>		<u>620</u>
	Total amounts collected from members	15,098	1,349	16,447
	<i>From educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	-		-
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	-		-
	One Day Seminar	-		-
	Other courses and events	-		-
		-	-	-
	<i>From sale of products</i>			
	Honey (on behalf of members)	330		330
	Honey (from CBKA hives)	3,390		3,390
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	<u>467</u>		<u>467</u>
		4,187	-	4,187
	<i>Other income, including GiftAid</i>	2,893	280	3,173
	Total income	<u>22,178</u>	<u>1,629</u>	<u>23,807</u>
EXPENDITURE	<i>On behalf of members</i>			
	BBKA membership	(7,818)		(7,818)
	Bee Disease Insurance	(1,539)		(1,539)
	Beekeepers' Quarterly	<u>(620)</u>		<u>(620)</u>
		(9,977)	-	(9,977)
	<i>On educational activities</i>			
	Beginners' training course	(400)		(400)
	Try-a-hive	-		-
	Improvers' training course	-		-
	One Day Seminar	-		-
	Other talks, courses and events	<u>(1,729)</u>		<u>(1,729)</u>
		(2,129)	-	(2,129)
	<i>On products for sale</i>			
	Honey from members	(264)		(264)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(88)		(88)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	(99)		(99)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	-		-
	Cost of attending third party events	<u>(204)</u>		<u>(204)</u>
		(655)	-	(655)
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>			
	Maintenance	(1,733)		(1,733)
	Capital expenditure	<u>(1,062)</u>		<u>(1,062)</u>
		(2,795)	-	(2,795)
	<i>On running the Association</i>			
	Insurance	(425)		(425)
	Printing and stationary	(1,075)		(1,075)
	Room hire	-		-
	Other costs	<u>(740)</u>		<u>(740)</u>
		(2,240)	-	(2,240)
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
	Total expenditure	<u>(17,796)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(18,796)</u>
NET INCOME		<u>4,382</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>5,011</u>
				<u>7,186</u>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
(Registered charity No. 1183601)



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

		2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges	57		124	
	Jars and other packaging for honey	271		236	
	Stock of Polo Shirts	157		179	
	Wax for processing	-		-	
	Stock of Try-A-Hives	-		-	
	Manuals for beginners	113		188	
			598		727
	Prepayment of 2020 / 2019 expenses - Printing	-		-	
	Prepayment of 2020 / 2019 expenses - Talks	-		-	
Receivables	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150		150	
			150		150
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	73,036		60,597	
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	10,524		10,523	
	Floot for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	-		120	
			83,560		71,240
Total assets			84,308		72,117
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	(19)		(51)	
	BDI paid in advance	(2)		(9)	
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	(200)		(200)	
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	(7,095)		-	
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-	
	Provision for possible charge for Wandlebury	(29)		-	
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)	
	Other accruals	(721)		(626)	
			(8,086)		(906)
Net assets			76,222		71,211
Represented by					
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	66,029		59,382	
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	4,382		6,647	
	At the end of the year		70,411		66,029
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	5,182		4,643	
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	1,629		1,539	
	Grants made during the year	(1,000)		(1,000)	
	At the end of the year		5,811		5,182
Total Funds			76,222		71,211

Note to the Accounts.

CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses, the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2021, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly.

Apiary shed- Wandlebury	£7,640	£7,490
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£4,874	£4,779
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£39,611	£38,834
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI)- at each location	£9,141	£8,962
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£19,160	£18,784


Peter Connor
Hon. Treasurer

Auditor

I have examined the Accounts of Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2021.



M Cooper FCCA
11 April 2022

Accounts

CBKA Yearbook 2020



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Editor's report

LOOKING BACK I realise that I am starting this year's report the same as last, in that I hope you are all well and surviving the pandemic and lockdown, and I hope that you have been able to look after your bees okay. This yearbook contains the CBKA reports for 2020, and it is rather shorter than usual. The Annual General Meeting had to be postponed last April, and still remains on hold until social distancing is eased. The Committee agreed to keep their current positions and continue to work on behalf of the members until the AGM and elections can take place. Therefore, there are no meeting minutes in this yearbook as there would normally be. Covid-19 also meant that talks other than on-line, training sessions, assessments, outside events and the honey show all had to be cancelled for 2020. The one-day seminar did take place in March, just before the first lockdown, and was well-attended despite the imminence of Covid-19. For the latter half of the year however, with the wonderful organisation of Sally and her team, we have had some brilliant online talks, as outlined in the report. There are more excellent talks lined up, so keep looking out for details.

I am again pleased to have served the year as CBKA editor, including editing and sending the e-bulletins, and thank all those who supplied articles and reports through 2020. However, the number of CBKA News articles sent in during the year was disappointingly few; without members writing and sending in more articles there is insufficient for regular issues. So, once again I would ask that if you have any possible contributions for CBKA News, no matter what length, do please keep sending them in. With less to do to look after your bees during winter, and the current lockdown, some of you will hopefully have time to write. Maybe write a report on a particular online talk, since not everyone gets to see them; the talks are mostly recorded, so you can go back and listen again to make it easier to write, and I am always happy to check, edit or even help to write an article.

With our own beekeeping, Pam and I started 2020 with six hives going through winter, but lost one from isolation starvation when there was a cold snap. Because bees are regarded as livestock, we were still able to collect swarms, with social distancing, and so were able to replace the colony in May and back to six through the year. The bees had swarmed from a colony

in someone's chimney and it seemed they weren't used to building comb in straight lines and kept building comb at all angles in the brood box, despite having foundation frames! Honey production was erratic again, with three hives producing large amounts of honey and two only producing a small amount, but the final honey crop was good, at twice the previous year. We have left a super full of honey/sugar syrup immediately above the brood box in each hive, and put Candipolline on each, so hopefully can avoid starvation this year. For a couple of days in early January, there were bees flying out from each hive, so keeping fingers crossed.

Despite lockdown, insects are unaffected and we need to guard against Asian hornets again. Also, Bee Inspectors can continue inspections, with social distancing, so if you think you have infection problems in any of your hives do continue to contact them for advice. Here's hoping that lockdown conditions improve as we go through the year and I wish you all well and that you have a successful 2021 season with your bees.

Peter Bates

Chairman's Report

2020 WAS NOT a memorable beekeeping year with regard to events and activities – in fact it was quite the opposite. As I write this in January 2021 my bees are shielding in their hives from the sub-zero temperatures, whilst we are locked-down as a result of a significant spike in Covid-19 cases. This brings into perspective for me the meaning of life, beekeeping, the universe and everything!

January 2020 started with little awareness of what was to come. There was a healthy attendance for the CBKA beginners course, expertly organised by Stephen Poyser and ably assisted by CBKA members, including the Committee and apiary managers. My thanks go to Stephen and his volunteers for organising the course despite the disappointment of not being able to continue with the practical aspects of beekeeping due to the coronavirus pandemic.

By March 2020 the lockdown had struck and we entered the 'virtual' world of beekeeping, though looking after our own bees was allowed as management of livestock. Social distancing put paid to any apiary teaching for beginners. The CBKA Committee meetings moved to being held on-line and I wish to thank all of the Committee for their continued support and dedication to our shared and continued focus on beekeeping.

Because the usual talks programme was cancelled, Committee member Sally Knowles and several volunteers put together an excellent series of regular on-line talks, with speakers of national and international repute. Memorable for me was the example of the legendary Professor Tom Seeley lecturing from his new rural home in Maine, USA. Also our own member, Jack Silberrad, entertained us with an excellent talk about his time in New Zealand working with a Manuka honey bee-farmer. The talks have had a large attendance when compared with our face-to-face meetings, along with positive feedback. Once again my thanks to the work of Sally and the volunteers.

Rather than now listing what else didn't take place in the 2020 CBKA season I will instead briefly reflect on two of my own personal beekeeping experiences in 2020. My bees are in my garden apiary and, therefore, little affected by the Covid restrictions. I buy 'thoroughbred' queens from UK breeders rather than collecting swarms. A significant lesson for me has been

with Carniolan queens. I was attracted to these because of several positive characteristics of being gentle, productive and their rapid build-up in the early season. However, when rearing my own queens from these foundresses I have faced highly aggressive F1 queens, which has been a real issue for me. Some of you may know that I once suffered anaphylactic shock from a bee sting, and was desensitised successfully at the Addenbrooke's bee (and wasp) sting clinic in Cambridge. Hence, calm bees are a key focus for my beekeeping and we should not tolerate aggressive bees as they are both a nuisance and potentially dangerous for the beekeeper and neighbours. I therefore spent most of the 2020 season sacrificing the F1 hybrid queens and replacing these with Buckfast queens. This was managed through a number of nucs and uniting of hives to keep to 3 hives in my home apiary. On a positive note, I was satisfied with a good honey yield of around 90 lb.

My other new 'trial' is that of using the less time-consuming ~13 kg blocks of baker's fondant, rather than feeding with syrup to prepare my bees for winter. This came about following a virtual talk by Professor David Evans and also following his excellent on-line forum (The Apiarist – <https://www.theapiarist.org/tag/fondant/>). I tracked down a local baker to secure the large blocks and, as I write this report, my hives, as hefted today, are heavy with stores for the bees.

I conclude my report by again advising that the CBKA Annual General Meeting has been postponed until later in 2021, due to the current circumstances, and encourage you to keep reading the regular CBKA ebulletins as well as the web-site for future details. This reminds me to thank our CBKA editor Peter Bates for his work in collating and sending out the ebulletins as well as newsletters. I am sure that he won't mind me using this opportunity to ask any beekeeper reading this report to send him articles, photos or anything beekeeping-related for the newsletter.

Finally, I cannot close without thanking again the Committee, the Apiary Managers (Stephen Poyser, Bill Block, Roy Cross and Jonathan Baynes) and all CBKA volunteers for their continued support. I sincerely hope that you all enjoy a safe and enjoyable 2021 beekeeping season.

Dr J Paul Schofield

Membership Report

THIS HAS BEEN a very difficult year for everyone. However, this has not affected our membership numbers, which are higher than they have been for some time. Below are the final membership numbers for 2020 with the comparative numbers for 2019.

Year	Ordinary	Associate	Honorary	Partner	Companion	Junior	Total
2020	402	28	6	61	22	19	538
2019	446	29	5	64	23	19	586

We are anticipating a reduction in membership during 2021 because of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on our activities. It meant that we have been unable to support our 2020 beginners in the way we would have wished and, without the beginners' course in 2021, there will automatically be a reduction in new members. We have also been unable to attend any events and our opportunity to educate and enthuse the public about beekeeping has not been available.

There could be an increase in Associate members in 2021, because we are encouraging non-members who want to attend our spectacularly popular programme of talks, via Zoom, to join as Associates and many have already done so.

Subscription rates remain unchanged for 2021, but we are expecting an increase in the fees paid to BBKA in 2022.

Martin Kendall is continuing his work on the CBKA website and will be including an online application form with an automatic receipt issue. It is possible to access the membership form on the website, without needing to login to the Members' area, and payment by PayPal is available and extremely popular. You do not need a PayPal account to pay but please remember to send me your application form, either by post or electronically, at the same time as you make a payment.

Finally, once again I would like to thank John Rayner for his continued computer support.

Elizabeth Cox

Secretary's Report

As I LOOK through the 2020 folder in my CBKA email account, it strikes me how routinely the year started, with the usual plans and optimism for the coming season. This optimism was maintained throughout January and the early part of February. Then one by one came notifications of cancellation of the numerous events, national and local, that mark the passage of the beekeeping year. There would be no CBKA presence at fairs and shows, no Honey Show, no talks given to schools and groups by the newly formed Outside Talks group and no practical sessions for the 2020 beginners. With the Charity Commission permitting a more relaxed schedule, the CBKA's Annual General Meeting was also cancelled for the time being and the Committee members who had been elected for a year in 2019 agreed to continue in office for as long as necessary.

By the end of March, the entire country was in lockdown. Fortunately for us beekeepers, tending to livestock – including bees – was one of the legitimate reasons to leave the house. The CBKA asked members to volunteer to look after the bees of those who were shielding or unwell, and I would like to thank the volunteers who responded to this call and generously offered their help. However, Cambridgeshire beekeepers are apparently a hardy lot and there have been few requests for assistance. Nevertheless it was heartening to read the emails of the volunteers and (as I write), with the end of the third lockdown still not in sight and the weather improving, it's good to know that this support network could still spring into action if necessary as the new beekeeping season approaches.

The CBKA Committee meetings were successfully moved online and Committee business continued almost as usual. The CBKA Talks programme found a new home on Zoom. Although the Talks audiences have been unable to enjoy sharing the customary post-talk refreshments and gossip, they have had the opportunity to hear and watch presentations from some well-known and highly-respected beekeepers and researchers whom it would otherwise not have been possible to persuade to make the journey to Cambridge – one of the few benefits of the lockdown. What's more, moving online has allowed the talks to reach a far wider, indeed global, audience, and allowed us to connect and learn despite the restrictions of the last year.

Humans may have been in lockdown, but the bees were not. As the sun shone and temperatures rose during an exceptionally bright and warm spring, the public continued to contact the CBKA with reports of swarms and bees (not always honeybees) in inappropriate places. Many thanks to all those CBKA members who stepped up and offered practical help or reassurance, either in person, where it was safe to do so, or remotely by phone or email.

Despite the lockdown, the annual purchase and distribution of Apikel winter syrup went ahead; many thanks to Ross Lilley and Matt Lambon Ralph for the heavy lifting, transport and distribution and to Martin Kendall for providing a simple yet effective booking system for timed slots which ensured that collection proceeded smoothly and safely within Covid guidelines.

Finally, I would like to remind you all that I often get requests from the general public for local honey – particularly during hayfever season. If you would like to be contacted when someone in your area is looking to buy honey or wax – drop me an email with the approximate location of your hives and I'll add you to the list.

Wishing you all much success for the coming beekeeping season!

Susan Wilkie, CBKA Secretary

Beginners' Course Report

THIS HAS BEEN the most trying and difficult year for anyone wanting to take up beekeeping and the most frustrating year for those of us wanting to pass on our knowledge of beekeeping. It all started off so well, with a full class of 90 students enrolled on the course, including 1 junior; the initial course of 8 lectures passed off without too much concern and details were obtained to confirm who wanted help making their hive and who wanted to attend the practical sessions, and contact details of the bee buddies were circulated.

Then it all fell apart as a result of Covid-19 as lockdown resulted in the hive making having to be cancelled, the practical apiary sessions could not proceed due to social distancing and vulnerable bee buddies were self-isolating or not willing to meet others. This resulted in the beginners having little or no practical apiary training or experience, with little chance to call anyone in to physically help if they had a problem. So, the message went out to them not to get bees this year and, if possible, delay it until 2021. We were subsequently unable to hold the beginners Autumn lecture and it looks as if the last lecture, due in early 2021, will also have to be postponed. It was subsequently agreed not to hold a Beginners Course in 2021, but to concentrate on providing the missing back-up to the students of the 2020 Beginners' Course, if at all possible.

What this year has shown is that although the theory of beekeeping is very useful, and reading books helps, there is actually nothing as good as the practical information and support that you pick up whilst attending apiary sessions and talking to experienced beekeepers. This was borne out by me receiving many calls during the summer from beginners who already had bees, or had ordered them and could not cancel the order, and then having issues with accidentally killing the queen, not understanding the brood nest, swarm control, trying to extract honey, preparing the hive for winter, etc. So the 2020 Beginners Course will hopefully recommence in the spring of 2021 when again help will be offered to those who have yet to build their hive and a full sequence of practical apiary sessions will be offered hopefully at the CBKA apiaries at either Wandlebury or Impington. This will be followed by the Autumn lecture on "Harvesting, varroa control and preparation for winter" and the final lecture in Jan 2022 on "What to do next".

The postponement of the 2021 course for a year (78 names already on the

list) has undoubtedly upset some potential attendees, but hopefully they understand the need for us to complete the 2020 course before embarking on another; our apiaries and teachers cannot support the sheer number of potential beekeepers requiring practical training.

Many thanks to all the people who assisted in the aspects of the completed part of the 2020 course, which included IT expertise, manhandling chairs and PA equipment and the giving of lectures. More help will be required in 2021 with hive making, providing nuc's of bees and giving both time and expertise with the practical sessions. so please let me know if you are willing to be involved in any of these, otherwise I will be forced to contact the faithful regulars who I know want to share the roles wider.

Although it is repetition, I want to emphasise that this year has shown how vital it is for beginners to obtain practical training. Therefore, when you are re-joining the CBKA please seriously consider offering to help a beginner (or let me know you are willing to be a bee buddy) otherwise some beginners will flounder with the hobby and will either give up or keep bees and potentially cause problems for other beekeepers in their area.

Stephen Poyser, Beginners' Course Coordinator

Talks Working Group Report

THE TALKS WORKING Group is made up of a small number of us who, in previous years, have got together in an informal manner over soup and other exciting beverages to discuss and agree a programme of talks and then share out the responsibilities in terms of confirming dates, contacting speakers and preparing for the talks themselves. As we know, 2020 did not go quite to plan and we were all thrown into the world of zoom and online talks. I have to admit, I believe one of the positives from this pandemic is that we have been able to reach not only speakers from all over the world and invite them into our sitting rooms, but also many other beekeepers and interested parties worldwide, and not just our own members in Cambridgeshire. I personally could not have done any of this without the other members of the Talks Working Group and the mentoring and help we received from Lynne Ingram of Somerset Beekeepers.

We are always looking for new people to join the group, and if you are interested please do contact me. Please also feel free to send us any reviews of talks that you have attended and if you have any ideas for future speakers. We cannot always promise to deliver, but will try our best.

So, here are some short reviews of some of the talks we had online during 2020. We haven't reviewed all of them, but every one was a great success. Some of the talks were recorded and we encourage you to watch them. They are behind the member's area of our website <https://www.cbka.org.uk/>

The Talks Working Group: Sally Knowles, David Abson, Peter Connor, Alison Goodfellow, Alex Hirtzel, Martin Harnor, Robin Lea, Karen Lee, Susan Wilkie.

Tasks of Worker Honey Bees – Professor Jamie Ellis on 22 July

We enjoyed a fascinating talk by Dr Jamie Ellis, the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the Entomology and Nematology Department, University of Florida. Jamie explained that it is useful for every beekeeper to have a general understanding of both honey bee and colony biology. This helps us as beekeepers because we already know what we want to accomplish, but if we also understand what the bees are trying to accomplish, we can work to harmonise these together.

Jamie explained that a colony's goals are the same as any other organism

– to survive and reproduce. Swarming is how honey bees reproduce at the colony level, and this is a natural urge of the honeybee, despite us, as beekeepers, often wanting to discourage it. We learnt about the stimuli that drives a colony to swarm and how we can look out and recognise some of the signs that the bees are preparing for this. These include resource availability, longer warmer days, drone abundance, congested nests from a population explosion, lack of open brood cells, and dilution of the queen pheromone, aging queen and the production of new queens. Jamie talked us through all of this, explaining what to look out for when we inspect our colonies; for example, a large increase in the number of drone cells is an early sign, and later there will probably be ten or more queen cups prepared by the bees. As beekeepers, we need to be vigilant early in the year because swarms that occur in early spring apparently have the best chance of long-term survival. This was a thought provoking talk that included information on the latest research into honeybees, and provided information useful to all beekeepers, both beginners and more experienced.

Lal Goodfellow, member of the Talks Working Group

Preparing for winter – Professor David Evans on 12 August

As anyone familiar with David Evans’ “The Apiarist” blog would expect, his well-timed talk on preparing for winter was an enjoyable and very informative event. David is a virologist and some of his work focuses on deformed wing virus (DWV) and chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV) in bees. He keeps his own bees in several apiaries across Scotland. As well as producing a weekly blog, he is currently the “agony aunt” for BBKA News, answering readers’ questions on a wide range of beekeeping topics.

David gave general guidance on the preparations beekeepers should make to avoid colony losses over the winter. He discussed practical solutions for combining and feeding colonies and precautions against a number of threats, including robbing by bees and wasps, attacks by mice and other animals, flooding and cold, but in line with his view that the biggest problem facing bees is disease, much of his talk dealt with when and how to best treat bees for varroa. As the vector of viruses, the varroa mite, if left unchecked, is a more likely factor than any other in colony loss.

David outlined his own treatment regime, which is the result of considerable experience, solid research and good sense, but emphasised that

awareness of local climate was necessary to get the timing right. He advocates earlier treatment than generally recommended, at the end of the summer, in order to ensure that the colony goes into the winter with a healthy number of disease-free winter bees. The audience asked many questions that David answered with patience and his trademark humour. Both novice and more experienced beekeepers went away feeling that, without really noticing, we had absorbed a lot of very helpful information that would prove invaluable in the months to come.

Susan Wilkie, CBKA Secretary and co-opted member of the Talks Working Group

The Bee Colony as a honey factory – Professor Tom Seeley on 19 August

This was a wonderful and most informative talk given by Professor Seeley, mainly about the dances that bees do to recruit more foragers and more ‘unloaders’. He showed a number of videos that sadly did not come out too well from Maine via Zoom, but they can all be found on YouTube. It was exciting to be in the presence (albeit virtually) of one of the leading speakers about honeybees. Tom is having a ‘research bee barn’ built in his backyard, and has kindly agreed to speak to us again in June on the Craft of Bee hunting; possibly we might get a glimpse of his finished barn.

Sally Knowles, CBKA Committee and member of the Talks Working Group

Preparing Honey for show – Dale Gibson on 23 September

What does it take to be a “Best in Show”? Dale Gibson showed us the planning and meticulous details that can go into preparing for a best in show. I was particularly impressed with his attention to detail and care for cleanliness in extraction. Another great speaker.

Robin Lea, member of the Talks Working Group

Dale Gibson left a career in stockbroking to start Bermondsey Street Bees. He took a beekeeping course in 2006 under the Queen’s beekeeper John Chapple. Today, Bermondsey Street Bees has eighty hives and a thriving consultancy business that helps commercial firms, such as Soho Farmhouse and Berkeley Homes Group, design and maintain sustainable apiaries. The honey, which has won countless awards, is used by top-name restaurants, including Hakkasan, Kerridge Bar & Grill and Roux at The Landau.

I particularly liked the following comment, noted among the information attributed to him. *'You have a responsibility as an urban beekeeper to raise calm bees.'*

David Abson, CBKA Committee and member of the Talks Working Group

Buckfast to Buckingham Palace – Richard Rickett on 30 September

Richard Rickett has been co-editor of Beecraft, along with Stephen Fleming, since January 2020. He keeps about 30 colonies of his own bees, as well as a few for other people. He runs beekeeping courses, but most of all really enjoys meeting and learning from other beekeepers. He is particularly interested in the history of beekeeping, books and photography.

David Abson, CBKA Committee and member of the Talks Working Group

The Astonishing power of bees to change people's lives –Nicola Bradbear on 28 October

Dr Nicola Bradbear, from Bees for Development, spoke to us about the charity and the work that it does. The charity <https://beesfordevelopment.org/> is based in Monmouthshire, but has a global reach, and works both in the UK and with some of the very poorest communities to teach the skills of local beekeeping, whilst at the same time supporting ecosystem integrity. Currently, the main centres of focus are Somalia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tobago. In these areas, Bees for Development have local representatives who teach, using local materials and techniques, how to become a beekeeper and earn a sustainable living. The results have been remarkable; it has changed the lives of many and they have worked with very diverse groups, including people who have a disability and those who have turned from poacher to beekeeper. It is a remarkable charity and well worth the warm reception and generous support Nicola received from CBKA.

Alex Hirtzel, member of the Talks Working Group

My life as a manuka honey farmer – Jack Silberrad on 11 November

Jack worked variously as a microbiologist, teacher and sales representative. He then completely changed direction, from suits to boots, and was in his final year as an apprentice honeybee farmer with the London Honey Company. Jack is also one of Cambridgeshire's Seasonal Bee Inspectors. Over the next few years he intends to begin refining and breeding queens, raising

nuclei, and producing even more honey. As part of his apprenticeship, and also to broaden his experience, Jack travelled to the mountainous alpine region of Tasman, outside Murchison, New Zealand, where he was hosted by the Manuka Island Honey Company. This talk was all about his time there.

David Abson, CBKA Committee member and member of the Talks Working Group

Beekeeping in Brittany – Richard Noel on 25 November

It was good to hear from Richard Noel, who is an expat beekeeper living in Brittany. To hear about the challenges of coping with a different climate and his views on Asian Hornets was particularly noteworthy. Hopefully, we can hear more from him in the future.

Robin Lea, member of the Talks Working Group

Sustainable Beekeeping – Mike Palmer on 9 December

Mike Palmer, of French Hill Apiaries, bought his first two packages of bees from FW Jones Company of Quebec in 1974; they cost \$10.50 delivered. Neither colony made it through the first winter, but he kept trying and built up to 200 hives by 1981. In 1982, Mike got a job managing the bees owned by Chazy Orchards in Chazy, New York, and did so until 1986. Then he convinced Chazy to sell their bees to him, so at that time, he had more than 600 colonies. Mike began raising his own queens in 1998, and has been doing so ever since. Today, Mike raises about 1200 queens and manages over 1000 colonies, with some 600-700 production colonies and hundreds of nucleus colonies.

David Abson, CBKA Committee member and member of the Talks Working Group

Wandlebury Apiary Report

THE 9 COLONIES taken into the winter at the end of 2019 were: 7 in National brood boxes (1 in double brood boxes), 1 in a Dartington Hive and 1 in a 14 x 12 brood box. The winter was fairly uneventful, although a woodpecker made a tentative attack on one hive even though it was protected by strips of polythene sheeting. The very mild winter resulted in me being unable to treat the hives with Oxalic Acid to reduce any level of varroa mites before the bees started to produce any brood. One of the National hives dwindled away in the early spring, which was probably as a result of a failing queen because there was plenty of stores still in the brood box, but otherwise all the other hives came through the winter in good condition.

The inability to treat the hives with oxalic acid did not result in a significant number of varroa being found during the year, so it appears the varroa treatment given in the autumn of 2019 was successful, since only one hive needed treatment during the summer. All hives were treated with Apistan (pyrethroid-based insert) in the autumn of 2020.

During the coming winter it is again intended to give the hives a treatment of oxalic acid (by the trickle method), if the weather permits, in an attempt to ensure the colonies start the year with as few mites as possible. In the early spring of 2020, the colonies were fed fondant icing as an insurance against starvation and Candipolline as a pollen substitute to boost brood production. This again proved worthwhile as the colonies were strong by the late spring so it is intended to use Candipolline again in the spring of 2021. Then along came Covid-19 and this really messed up my involvement with the apiary as I needed to self isolate; however, Lesley Fletcher kindly took on the role of apiary manager until the autumn when I resumed, following her need to withdraw from the position. During the summer we kept in touch and she was able to control the production of queens whilst adding more supers, as required.

Covid also prevented the apiary being used for any beginner training, practical apiary meetings (PAMs), examinations or the requirement for a stocked observation hive for use by the education team of wardens at Wandlebury. During the summer, several colonies created replacement queens but no additional colonies were created, so we ended the year with 8 hives: 6 in National brood boxes (1 as brood and a half (with a super on)), 1 in a Dartington Hive and 1 in a 14 x 12 brood box.

European Foul Brood (EFB) was found to the south of Cambridge in the summer, which resulted in the hives needing to be checked by the seasonal bee inspector, but I am pleased to report no EFB was found. EFB was again found within the notification area in October, but I had already been through the hives and closed them down for winter; it was agreed they would be left and I would again check them as soon as possible in the spring of 2021.

The hives had all collected a reasonable amount of stores during the autumn, but they were still fed syrup (in an attempt to stop them storing ivy honey), treated against varroa with Apistan, and given mouse guards and woodpecker protection before winter. A check on the weight of the hives will be carried out at regular intervals during the winter and, if required, packs of fondant icing will be added to the hives. If normality resumes in 2021 and the hives are of sufficient strength, it is my intention to split some colonies and restock the WBC, whilst ensuring there are enough good colonies for beginners to carry out inspections and manipulations. As a result of Lesley's management during the summer (or possibly the weather or the inability of the hives to be used for beginner training), this year has resulted in a good crop of approximately 400 lb of honey, which will be sold to supplement the CBKA's bank account.

It is intended to undertake further work in and around the shed and the apiary during 2021 to improve them for both the bees and the attendees. I am very thankful to Lesley Fletcher and Bill Clark for their help during the year, because without them the apiary would not be anything like the shape it currently is in. If you wish to be involved in helping with Wandlebury in 2021, please contact me. I again intend to use the time for a combination of sharing information and spreading the load of looking after the CBKA interests at Wandlebury, whilst enjoying beekeeping.

Stephen Poyser, Wandlebury Apiary Manager

Impington Apiary Report

DURING 2019, FROM April to September, European foul brood (EFB) was found in eight colonies and the apiary went into winter still under an APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) Standstill Order. Anecdotal evidence suggests that EFB may be present in a hive but not show symptoms in larvae during inspections. One method used by the National Bee Unit to eradicate EFB is to shook swarm the live bees into a clean hive with new frames and foundation, and then burn the old frames from the brood box and supers. To try and eradicate EFB from the apiary, we decided to follow this advice by burning all the super frames after honey extraction, thoroughly scorching the super boxes and shook swarming all the hives in spring 2020 into clean hives.

All thirteen colonies in the apiary had been treated with Apistan in the autumn of 2019 and were fed with syrup to build up stores for the winter. One colony did not survive the winter. Early in 2020, the farm barns at the apiary were thoroughly cleaned, benches set up and CBKA volunteers (Lesley Fletcher and Charlie, Andy Hartley, Mary Shemilt, Steve Smith, Alison Goodfellow, Peter Dawson, Barbara Maurice and Colin Bell) attended frame-making parties on 18 January and 1 February, or took frame kits home to help make up the 220 brood and 300 super frames that were needed to shook swarm the colonies in the spring and manage the hives during the year.

Twelve complete clean replacement hive kits were prepared ready in the shed with new frames and five keen CBKA members volunteered to help shook swarm the entire apiary, burn all the frames and scorch all the hive equipment hopefully in one day, on 24 March 2020. That day will probably be etched on your memory as the first day of the first Covid-19 lockdown, so the full apiary shook swarm was cancelled the night before – ‘best made plans...’

Following advice from DEFRA and APHA that livestock and bees still needed to be managed during the lockdown, the two apiary managers agreed on a safe plan to continue inspecting the hives and managing the apiary. Fortunately the Impington apiary has hives spaced well apart so we could easily keep away from each other, while using our own dedicated tools, clothing and equipment. Only the two apiary managers and the Seasonal Bee Inspector, Jonathan Baynes, attended the apiary during the entire year. Obviously no beekeeper training took place at the apiary during the 2020 season.

The apiary managers decided to continue with some shook swarming, prioritising hives with old comb, and managed to get seven out of the twelve colonies into new hives by 14 April. Colonies that had started on new foundation in clean hives in 2019 were not shook swarmed due to constraints on time and working restrictions. Some colonies survived the shook swarm well and drew out foundation quickly, while others failed to build up. Syrup was continually fed to the colonies until the brood foundation had been drawn out. At least one queen was lost during the shook swarm process.

Unfortunately, after all these efforts EFB was confirmed in an un-shook colony on 6 May. No EFB was found in a full inspection on 19 June, but was confirmed in another un-shook colony on 21 July and again in a shook swarmed colony on 31 July; these three colonies were destroyed. No EFB was found at the last full inspection on 15 September. We remain hopeful that in 2021 the apiary will remain disease-free, but doubt if we will be able to host any training events in the spring due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

During 2020, six hives produced 160 lb of honey, considerably below the 4-year average of 360 lb for the apiary. The number of colonies was reduced during the year from thirteen to seven, two being rather small. Losses were due to EFB (3), and queens failing to develop or colonies failing to build up after shook swarming. All remaining hives have been treated with Apiguard and fed with syrup.

As in 2019, thanks must go to Jonathan Baynes for all his help, advice and patience through 2020, as well as assistance with scraping and scorching hives from diseased colonies. The Association again remains grateful to Chivers Farms Ltd for their continued support of the apiary at Bedlam Farm, Impington.

Roy Cross & Bill Block, Impington Apiary Managers

Bourn Apiary Report

FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT instruction to lock-down, the Bee Improvement Group (BIG) Queen Rearing was not going to happen at Bourn in 2020. Therefore, Michael Wilton-Cox and I decided that we would concentrate on building up the apiary. Having more queen rearing colonies was something that we had planned and really needed. However, splitting colonies for increase, while producing colonies to build queen cells from grafts, never seemed to work fully.

We ended the year with seven colonies going into the winter, putting us in a good position if, and when, we can start queen rearing in 2021. My thanks again to Michael for his assistance.

The forage in the Bourn area was not particularly good this year. The neighbouring fields were wheat and barley. However, I took off 90 pounds of honey, which seemed fair for just a couple of production hives, under the circumstances.

While I was spinning the honey out, I noticed it had a quite an unpleasant smell, almost 'farmyardy'. Undaunted, I finished off the extraction then tasted it. Not only did it smell like a farmyard, but it tasted a little like silage. I sent off a sample to the UK Honey Monitoring Laboratory and await to hear what they had to say about it. Stephen Poyser and Hamish Symington, who are paragons of good taste, tried it and both turned their noses up in disgust. I tried it on Peter Kastelewicz, CBKA's 'Polish ambassador for beekeeping'. Peter, who was brought up in Poland, recognised it immediately as buckwheat – and apparently quite a connoisseur's honey. It apparently mellows with age!

The Regional Bee Inspector, Keith Morgan, also recognised it as buckwheat, and through him I was able to find a buyer and achieve 'triumph out of tragedy' and CBKA's coffers were suitably enhanced.

So, the moral of the story? Like Marmite, if you do not like the taste of your honey, there is probably someone who thinks it is a delicacy! Now to track down the source of the buckwheat ready for this next year.

Jonathan Baynes

CBKA Equipment Use

RECORDED BORROWING OF CBKA equipment from the Wandlebury bee-shed for the period 2012 to 2020 is as shown below. The only thing that will show how the pandemic affected beekeepers in 2020 is the 0 in the Virtual Hive column:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2107	2018	2019	2020
Extractors	67	86	119	85	79	106	79	65	85
Pratley trays	30	53	55	34	39	52	39	35	38
Honey tanks	12	11	27	13	24	25	18	13	17
Wax melter	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2
Easi-steam	2	3	1	0	0	10	1	4	1
Virtual hive	-	-	7	2	7	9	5	7	0
Creamer-paddle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Candle moulds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Apimelter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7

This is not a comprehensive list, because some items were borrowed without being signed out; some items in years prior to 2020 were out for many months as a single booking (e.g. virtual hives for events and several series of talks).

Having been through the equipment in the bee-shed, we decided one extractor was beyond repair and has been disposed of, while Bill Clark needed to undertake repairs to 5 of the extractors during the year. However, as a result of generous donations by former members in 2020, we have acquired two further extractors and a settling tank for use in 2021. The CBKA purchased an Apimelter in early 2020, to enable members to melt honey and wax from frames that have solidified, and it is pleasing to note this significant expenditure has been justified by its use.

Please remember that when returning a Pratley tray you should ensure the electric lead, wax filter and uncapping board are also returned; several of these items failed to be returned during the year. Also, as a result of there being 3 different leads, it is essential you take the correct type when you borrow a Pratley tray, otherwise you will have had a wasted journey!

In addition to the items listed above, do not forget the CBKA also have filters, an electric uncapping knife, an uncapping tray and wax processing equipment,

including a solar wax extractor, which can be borrowed if required.

Regrettably, the cleanliness of some of the equipment when it is returned still leaves something to be desired; please make sure you return it in a state you would want to find it and return it a.s.a.p. after you have used it, as you can be certain other members want to borrow it at the same time as you do.

The access track to the bee-shed has a gate and chain; the CBKA has fitted a combination padlock in the centre of the padlock/ padlock / padlock sequence to enable the CBKA members, other authorised users and the Wardens, to use the track without the need for them to issue keys to all the authorised users and the CBKA. If you borrow items from the bee-shed please ensure to lock the gate correctly so that all the authorised users can open the gate without bothering another party. During 2020 some members have yet again locked our padlock solely to the chain, which meant the Wardens were unable to use the track until we had reset the CBKA combination padlock to link the other padlock to the Wardens padlock.

The bee-shed is fitted with movement sensors to switch the lights on and off, so do not try to find the switch to switch the lights off when you leave. Do please make sure you lock the bee-shed door.

In order to borrow equipment you will require both the gate padlock code and the new door code, the door code will be changed in early 2021. Please keep borrowed equipment for as short a time as possible (7 days as a maximum) as it is inconsiderate to other CBKA members for anyone to have equipment out for a long period of time.

When you have borrowed an item from the bee-shed, if you find that something is broken or if it breaks whilst you are using it, please inform us. In this way, repairs can be implemented before somebody else takes the item home only to find they have had a wasted journey. In an attempt to ensure only members of the CBKA use the equipment, when you contact us for the codes, you may be kept waiting on the phone whilst your 2021 membership details are checked – even though we may recognise your name.

Please ensure you book the equipment out and back in when appropriate, on the note-pad hanging adjacent to the extractors, and please write clearly and legibly because we need to know who you are. In 2021, please be considerate of other members if you borrow any equipment and return things promptly and clean.

Stephen Poyser and Bill Clark, Wandlebury Equipment Coordinators

In Spectacles... SBI Report

TRUE STORY... A school pupil was discussing the text he was studying for GCSE English Literature with my wife. The student said it was “N Spectorculs”. My wife looked bemused and replied, “In Spectacles? I’ve not heard of that book”. So, very patiently, the youth tried again “Nah, not ‘In Spectacles’... ‘An... Inspector... Calls.” Hence the new ‘by-line’...

Unlike many occupations, the Bee Inspector’s work carried on, more or less, unchanged by Covid-19. Honeybees, being regarded by the government as livestock, need to be cared for regardless of the lockdown. The only restriction imposed was that we could not carry out inspections where access to the hives involved passing through a house.

As far as bee diseases are concerned, 2020 was a fairly ‘normal’ year. We had our fair share of European Foul Brood (EFB) in the Eastern Region. Early in the year, the staff at the Food and Environmental Research Agency (FERA) laboratory had managed to sequence the DNA of the principal strain of EFB found in the Cambridge area (called ST37). There are at least two other strains in Cambridge, but this one dominates.

The delay in establishing the strain type was because it was previously unknown and unique to Cambridge. Working on a bank of archived historical samples, FERA were able to show the first instance of it came from Histon in 2015. Sadly in 2020, the ST37 strain spread from its previous stronghold in north Cambridge, down to south Cambridge. Worse was to come, because late in the season, it was found to have leapfrogged to Norfolk. The investigation is on-going as to how it got there.

Another disease that seems to be increasing in the UK is Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus (CBPV). I found several instances of this last year in the Cambridge area, including one of my own hives. It is not a notifiable disease, but it does result in a high mortality of bees, leaving a huge pile of bee carcasses below the entrance. Currently, there is no cure, and the remedies are not always successful. The bees, more or less, have to get over the ailment themselves. Having good biosecurity to prevent its spread, when you have multiple hives, is most important.

This year, my inspections took me from the great seats of learning in Cambridge, to large bee farms in Essex, to the Military Correction and Training Centre in Colchester, and of course to the many hobby beekeepers

who keep just a few hives. The places and people where hives are found are very varied, and that makes the job most interesting. Very occasionally there are hives that cannot be inspected – here is one I politely declined on health and safety grounds. While keeping ‘log hives’ in a wood and away from other beekeepers is not going to cause too much of a problem, siting one in central Cambridge would not be a good idea!



Some Inspectors were unable to work as they were in the ‘Covid-vulnerable’ category, so I did some cover down in North London. While it was interesting to see a different area, I am very glad not to have ‘congested London’ in my patch.

Towards the end of the season, I spent a few weeks triaging reports of suspect sightings of the Asian Hornet from the Non-Native Species Secretariat. I am pleased to say, not only did I not find any, but the total number of sightings in the UK in 2020 was down from the previous year.

Many of you will remember Fred Daynes who retired at the end of 2019 after nine years as a Seasonal Bee Inspector in the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire region. We are fortunate that his position has now been filled by CBKA’s own Jack Silberrad. In this coming year, Jack will be covering the city of Cambridge. My area will now extend further southwards because there is a need for more inspections down in Essex caused by an EFB outbreak that occurred in 2020.

My thanks again to everyone who allowed me to come and see their bees under the trying Covid-19 conditions. So far, 2021 seems to be going down the same route as this last year, but if I do not see you in the coming year, I know you will be in good hands with Jack.

Jonathan Baynes, Seasonal Bee Inspector

Treasurer's Report

WHILST 2020 WILL be remembered as a challenging year in many respects, I am pleased to report that the Association remains financially robust, with net income for the year of c. £7,200. Indeed, the fact that the Association was unable to host or attend as many events and activities as previous years, reduced its outgoings, while the principal sources of income – membership subscriptions and the Beginners' Course – were unaffected by the pandemic. I believe that the full effect of the pandemic on the Association's finances will be felt in the current year, when there will be no Beginners' Course and it remains unclear when, or whether, other events will resume. However, this is expected to be a short-term reduction in income and the Association is fortunate that it has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

Summary of income and expenditure for 2020

The table overleaf summarises the income and expenditure in 2020 and 2019, categorised by each source of income and its associated costs, with further detail below.

Income

The CBKA derives its income from the following sources:

- 1. Members' subscriptions and donations:** The largest source of the CBKA's income is subscriptions and donations. The total received from members, including amounts they paid for additional BDI insurance and the Beekeepers' Quarterly journal, was c. £17,000, up from 2019 due to an increase in the Association's membership during the year (the annual subscription rates being the same for 2020 as 2019).
- 2. Educational activities:** The second largest source of income for the CBKA is its educational activities, comprising:
 - The Beginners' Course
 - The Improvers' Course
 - The One-Day Seminar
 - Other events, such as the Bee Disease Day, the annual coach trip and the Annual Dinner

Total income from the above was c. £7,300 in 2020. The equivalent income

		2020			2019 (*)		
		Inc.	Exp.	Net inc.	Inc.	Exp.	Net inc.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1	From / on behalf of members	17,019	(11,388)	5,631	15,570	(10,418)	5,152
2	Educational activities	7,288	(5,827)	1,461	10,615	(9,505)	1,110
3	The sale of products	1,329	(36)	1,293	5,432	(2,686)	2,746
4	Other income, including GiftAid	4,514	-	4,514	3,026	-	3,026
5	Running the Association's apiaries	-	(2,470)	(2,470)	-	(3,024)	(3,024)
6	Running the Association	-	(2,243)	(2,243)	-	(2,661)	(2,661)
7	Grants to research organisations	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
		30,150	(22,694)	7,186	34,643	(29,294)	5,349

(*) On a pro-forma basis as if the “new” CBKA had existed for the whole of 2019

in 2019 was significantly higher because it included income from events that did not take place in 2020, namely the annual coach trip (£1,100), the “Bee Disease Day” (£600), and the Annual Dinner (£1,500). The Beginners’ Course in 2020 was very well attended, generating c. £1,350 more than in 2019, but this was offset by lower attendance at the One-Day Seminar where ticket sales generated c. £1,500 less than in 2019.

3. **The sale of products:** All of the events that the Association was scheduled to attend in 2020 were cancelled, and so the Association sold no honey from either its own apiaries or from members, to the public. The Association did sell some bulk honey to members, and once again sold surplus wax from its apiaries to BeeBee Wraps

- 4. Other income:** The CBKA received c. £3,400 in GiftAid, an increase on 2019 due to the additional membership. GiftAid remains a very welcome supplement to the Association's income, and effectively funds the day-to-day administrative costs of running the Association. This enables the Committee to channel all of the income from members and the Association's other activities into its charitable activities. I therefore encourage all members who are able to take advantage of GiftAid to do so on their membership renewal forms.

The Association also received donations of £1,150 during the year, significantly higher than in 2019. The Trustees are grateful to those members making such donations.

Expenditure

Expenditure during the year related to:

- 1. On behalf of members:** The majority of the subscriptions paid by members is actually paid across to organisations such as the BBKA, BDI and Beekeepers' Quarterly. These costs were c. £1,000 higher than 2019, reflecting the increase in the number of members as noted above.
- 2. Educational activities:** Expenditure on educational activities relate primarily to room hire and speakers' fees for the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses and our talks programme, together with the cost of the annual coach trip, Bee Disease Day and Annual Dinner. Total costs were significantly lower than in 2019, because the latter events were not held this year. Although the vast majority of the talks programme was held online, the cost of Zoom licences and higher speakers' fees meant that the overall cost of the talks programme in 2020 was similar to that of 2019.
- 3. Products for sale:** No members' honey was sold this year, with only incidental costs incurred.
- 4. Running the Association's apiaries:** The total cost of running the Association's apiaries at Bourn, Impington and Wandlebury, together with related capital expenditure, was down slightly on 2019. The apiary managers and their teams do a wonderful job of managing the apiaries and supporting the teaching and training that we do. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work in 2020, despite the pandemic and dealing with a further outbreak of EFB.

- 1. Running the Association:** Over half of the costs of running the Association are printing and postage, including this Yearbook. Although the cost of hiring rooms was less than 2019, because there was only one face-to-face meeting in 2020 before the first lockdown prevented such meetings, we have incurred additional costs on enhancing our website as online activity has increased. As noted above, GiftAid currently funds these activities, and the Committee constantly seeks to minimise the administrative costs of the Association.
- 6. Research grants:** The CBKA donated the final £1,000 to the current “EARS” project. The Committee is currently reviewing applications for research funding for 2021.

Reserves

The surplus for the year has increased the Association's reserves to c. £71,000. The majority of the Association's assets are held in cash, and the closing cash balance was c. £71,200. The Committee's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to protect the Association from potential reductions in its future income, whilst also generating the initial funding that would be required to establish a centre of excellence for beekeeping in the Cambridge area. The level of reserves is reviewed regularly by the Committee to ensure that they are adequate, but not excessive, for the Association's current and forecast activities, whilst noting that the costs of a centre of excellence cannot be estimated reliably until a suitable location has been identified and additional funding may be required in future to realise this longer-term ambition.

Outlook for 2021

The Association's budget for 2021 indicates that the current levels of income will be significantly reduced because:

- Due to the ongoing pandemic the Beginners' Course, the Improvers' Course and the One-Day Seminar have been cancelled for 2021, and any other events such as the annual coach trip or dinner are highly unlikely to proceed either;
- Similarly, the usual shows are unlikely to take place in 2021 and so the Association will have limited opportunities to sell its honey;
- The number of members is expected to drop compared to 2020, because there will be no new members joining for the Beginners' Course in 2021

and experience suggests that many of the 2020 beginners will not renew their membership; and

- The Association was fortunate to receive a significant donation in 2020, which will not recur in 2021.

However, this is expected to be a short-term reduction in income and the Association is fortunate that it has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

Peter Connor, CBKA Treasurer

CBKA contacts

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President: Bill Clark

Vice Presidents: MP for Cambridge City,
 MP for South-East Cambridgeshire, MP for
 North-East Cambridgeshire, MP for South
 Cambridgeshire, Director of the University
 Botanic Garden, the Bishop of Ely,
 the Education Manager, Cambridge PPF.

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For a full, up-to-date list of Bee Inspectors,
look at BeeBase: <http://tinyurl.com/cxzc8bu>



CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020			2019
		Accumulation Fund	Research Fund	Total Total	Total Total
		£	£	£	£
INCOME	<i>From members</i>				
	Subscriptions	13,699		13,699	12,266
	Donations	521	1,265	1,786	1,891
	CBKA Newsletter	270		270	210
	<i>Amounts collected from members for CBKA activities</i>	<u>14,490</u>	<u>1,265</u>	<u>15,755</u>	<u>14,367</u>
	Additional BDI cover requested by members	684		684	603
	Members' subscriptions to Beekeepers' Quarterly	580		580	600
	Total amounts collected from members	<u>15,754</u>	<u>1,265</u>	<u>17,019</u>	<u>15,570</u>
	<i>From educational activities</i>				
	Beginners' training course	4,341		4,341	2,984
	Try-a-hive	-		-	175
	Improvers' training course	560		560	560
	One Day Seminar	2,195		2,195	3,713
	Other courses and events	192		192	3,183
		<u>7,288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,288</u>	<u>10,615</u>
	<i>From sale of products</i>				
	Honey (on behalf of members)	-		-	793
	Honey (from CBKA hives)	1,055		1,055	3,679
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	274		274	960
		<u>1,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>5,432</u>
	<i>Other income, including GiftAid</i>	4,240	274	4,514	3,026
	Total income	<u>28,611</u>	<u>1,539</u>	<u>30,150</u>	<u>34,643</u>
EXPENDITURE	<i>On behalf of members</i>				
	BBKA membership	(9,230)		(9,230)	(8,401)
	Bee Disease Insurance	(1,578)		(1,578)	(1,417)
	Beekeepers' Quarterly	(580)		(580)	(600)
		<u>(11,388)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,388)</u>	<u>(10,418)</u>
	<i>On educational activities</i>				
	Beginners' training course	(1,759)		(1,759)	(1,554)
	Try-a-hive	-		-	(275)
	Improvers' training course	(457)		(457)	(427)
	One Day Seminar	(2,387)		(2,387)	(3,079)
	Other talks, courses and events	(1,224)		(1,224)	(4,170)
		<u>(5,827)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,827)</u>	<u>(9,505)</u>
	<i>On products for sale</i>				
	Honey from members	-		-	(647)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(36)		(36)	(193)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	-		-	(445)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	-		-	(823)
	Cost of attending third party events	-		-	(578)
		<u>(36)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>(2,686)</u>
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>				
	Maintenance	(1,423)		(1,423)	(2,398)
	Capital expenditure	(1,047)		(1,047)	(626)
		<u>(2,470)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,470)</u>	<u>(3,024)</u>
	<i>On running the Association</i>				
	Insurance	(384)		(384)	(386)
	Printing and stationary	(1,162)		(1,162)	(1,446)
	Room hire	(65)		(65)	(221)
	Other costs	(632)		(632)	(608)
		<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>(2,661)</u>
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
	Total expenditure	<u>(21,964)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(22,964)</u>	<u>(29,294)</u>
NET INCOME		<u>6,647</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>7,186</u>	<u>5,349</u>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
(Registered charity No. 1183601)



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges	124		124	
	Jars and other packaging for honey	236		139	
	Stock of Polo Shirts	179		179	
	Wax for processing	-		-	
	Stock of Try-A-Hives	-		-	
	Manuals for beginners	188		89	
		<u>727</u>		<u>531</u>	
Receivables	Prepayment of 2020 / 2019 expenses - Printing	-		37	
	Prepayment of 2020 / 2019 expenses - Talks	-		105	
	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150			
		<u>150</u>		<u>142</u>	
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	60,597		60,044	
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	10,523		10,519	
	Float for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	120		120	
		<u>71,240</u>		<u>70,683</u>	
Total assets		<u>72,117</u>		<u>71,356</u>	
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	(51)		-	
	BDI paid in advance	(9)		(5)	
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	(200)		(180)	
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	-		(6,480)	
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-	
	Provision for possible charge for Wandlebury	-		(300)	
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)	
	Other accruals	(626)		(346)	
		<u>(906)</u>		<u>(7,331)</u>	
Net assets		<u>71,211</u>		<u>64,025</u>	
Represented by					
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	59,382		54,488	
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	6,647		4,894	
	At the end of the year	<u>66,029</u>		<u>59,382</u>	
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	4,643		4,188	
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	1,539		1,455	
	Grants made during the year	(1,000)		(1,000)	
	At the end of the year	<u>5,182</u>		<u>4,643</u>	
Total Funds		<u>71,211</u>		<u>64,025</u>	

Note to the Accounts.

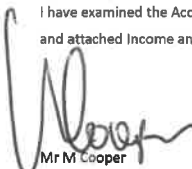
CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses, the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2016, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly. Since then, insurance cover for all CBKA's assets have been revalued annually in line with inflation and are now covered to the values as shown below:

Apiary shed- Wandlebury	£7,490	£7,343
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£4,779	£4,685
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£38,834	£38,073
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI)- at each location	£8,962	£8,786
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£18,784	£18,416


Peter Connor
Hon. Treasurer

Examiner's opinion

I have examined the Accounts of the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and, from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2020.


Mr M Cooper
17 June 2021



CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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	Beginners' training course	(1,759)		(1,759)	(1,554)
	Try-a-hive	-		-	(275)
	Improvers' training course	(457)		(457)	(427)
	One Day Seminar	(2,387)		(2,387)	(3,079)
	Other talks, courses and events	(1,224)		(1,224)	(4,170)
		<u>(5,827)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,827)</u>	<u>(9,505)</u>
	<i>On products for sale</i>				
	Honey from members	-		-	(647)
	Preparing and packaging honey from CBKA hives	(36)		(36)	(193)
	Polo shirts, badges and ancillary items	-		-	(445)
	Cost of running the Honey Show	-		-	(823)
	Cost of attending third party events	-		-	(578)
		<u>(36)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>(2,686)</u>
	<i>On running the Association's apiaries</i>				
	Maintenance	(1,423)		(1,423)	(2,398)
	Capital expenditure	(1,047)		(1,047)	(626)
		<u>(2,470)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,470)</u>	<u>(3,024)</u>
	<i>On running the Association</i>				
	Insurance	(384)		(384)	(386)
	Printing and stationary	(1,162)		(1,162)	(1,446)
	Room hire	(65)		(65)	(221)
	Other costs	(632)		(632)	(608)
		<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>(2,661)</u>
	<i>Grants to research organisations</i>	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
	Total expenditure	<u>(21,964)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(22,964)</u>	<u>(29,294)</u>
NET INCOME		<u>6,647</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>7,186</u>	<u>5,349</u>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
(Registered charity No. 1183601)



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019
		£	£	£
Stock	CBKA badges	124		124
	Jars and other packaging for honey	236		139
	Stock of Polo Shirts	179		179
	Wax for processing	-		-
	Stock of Try-A-Hives	-		-
	Manuals for beginners	188		89
		727		531
Receivables	Prepayment of 2020 / 2019 expenses - Printing	-		37
	Prepayment of 2020 / 2019 expenses - Talks	-		105
	Prepaid Wandlebury licence	150		-
		150		142
Cash	Cash at Lloyds Bank	60,597		60,044
	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	10,523		10,519
	Float for Cambridgeshire Apiaries events	120		120
		71,240		70,683
Total assets		72,117		71,356
Less creditors	BBKA subscriptions paid in advance	(51)		-
	BDI paid in advance	(9)		(5)
	BKQ subscriptions paid in advance	(200)		(180)
	Beginner's Course fees paid in advance	-		(6,480)
	One Day Seminar fees paid in advance	-		-
	Provision for possible charge for Wandlebury	-		(300)
	Key deposits for Impington Apiary	(20)		(20)
	Other accruals	(626)		(346)
		(906)		(7,331)
Net assets		71,211		64,025
Represented by				
Accumulation fund	At the beginning of the year	59,382		54,488
	Excess of income over expenditure during the year	6,647		4,894
	At the end of the year	66,029		59,382
Research fund	At the beginning of the year	4,643		4,188
	Donations from members during the year, gross of GiftAid	1,539		1,455
	Grants made during the year	(1,000)		(1,000)
	At the end of the year	5,182		4,643
Total Funds		71,211		64,025

Note to the Accounts.

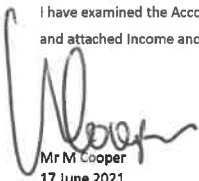
CBKA's accounting policy is to write off against any surpluses, the cost of all capital purchases at the time of acquisition. As a result, the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 do not show the value of CBKA's fixed assets. In 2016, the assets of CBKA were checked and valued at current prices and CBKA's buildings and contents insurance was updated accordingly. Since then, insurance cover for all CBKA's assets have been revalued annually in line with inflation and are now covered to the values as shown below:

Apiary shed- Wandlebury	£7,490	£7,343
Apiary sheds and outbuildings Impington and Bourn - at each location	£4,779	£4,685
Apiary tools, equipment and accessories - at each location	£38,834	£38,073
Apiary hives and bee colonies (excluding disease - covered by BDI)- at each location	£8,962	£8,786
Trailer, PA equipment and other assets	£18,784	£18,416


Peter Connor
Hon. Treasurer

Examiner's opinion

I have examined the Accounts of the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association and, from the records made available to me, I certify the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account represent a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs for the year ended 31 December 2020.


Mr M Cooper
17 June 2021